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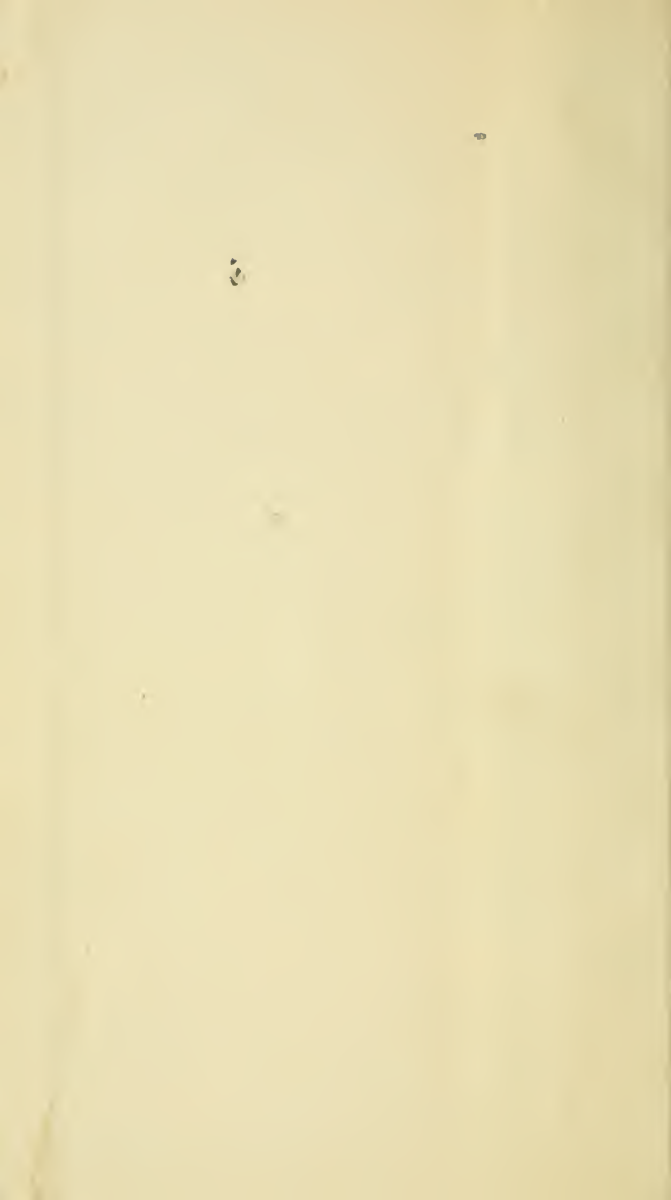








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THE  
LIFE

OF

BENVENUTO CELLINI.

A

FLORENTINE ARTIST.

CONTAINING

A VARIETY OF CURIOUS AND INTERESTING PARTICULARS, RELATIVE TO PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND ARCHITECTURE ;

AND

THE HISTORY OF HIS OWN TIME.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF IN THE TUSCAN LANGUAGE,  
And translated from the original,  
BY THOMAS NUGENT, L.L.D.F.S.A.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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# THE LIFE

OF

# CELINI.

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## BOOK III.

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### CHAPTER I.

*The Cardinal Ferrara returns to Rome from the court of France—At a banquet where he is entertained by the pope, he prevails on his holiness to set the author at liberty.—Verses called the Capitolo, which Celini wrote in his confinement.*

AFTER I had led this melancholy life a few days longer, the cardinal of Ferrara made his appearance at Rome: upon going to pay his respects to his holiness, he was detained to supper; and the pope being a person of great taste and genius, chose to converse with him concerning all that he had seen curious and worthy of observation in France. The cardinal in the heat of conversation discovered several things which he would have otherwise concealed; and as he knew how to conform himself to the French king's taste, and was equally possessed of the art of pleasing his holiness, the latter took a much greater liking to him than he was aware of himself, and seemed to be in high

spirits as well on account of this engaging conversation, as of the debauch he committed on the occasion, which he repeated every week, and vomited after it. When the cardinal saw the pope in a good humour, and likely to grant favours, he applied in my behalf, in the name of the king his master, in the most urgent manner imaginable, and expressed himself in such terms as demonstrated that the French monarch was very solicitous to obtain his request. The holy father thereupon perceiving that his time of vomiting was at hand, and that the great quantity of wine he had poured down his throat, was upon the point of operating, said to the cardinal laughing; take Benvenuto home with you directly, without a moment's delay: thus having given proper orders in the affair, he rose from table, and the cardinal sent for me that very moment, before the affair could come to the knowledge of Signor Pierluigi, who would never have consented to my releasment. The pope's order was brought to the prison by two of the cardinal of Ferrara's gentlemen, in the dead of night; they took me out of the castle and conducted me to the cardinal, who gave me the kindest reception imaginable; I was well lodged at his house, and enjoyed all the happiness which recovered liberty can bestow. Signor Antonio brother to the governor, and who was then possessed of his place, insisted upon my paying all my expences as well as the fees and gratifications required by the officers of justices and others of that stamp; in short he resolved to act in every respect contrary to the will of the deceased governor. This affair cost me many a score of crowns: the cardinal bid me be of good courage and take care of myself, if I valued my life; adding that if he had not that evening got me out of prison, I should in all proba-

bility have ended my days in confinement; as he was informed that the pope had already repented his having set me at liberty. I must therefore look back a little, to recollect some circumstances that occur in the verses which I composed when a prisoner. During the time that I passed in the apartment of the cardinal, and afterwards in the pope's privy garden, amongst other friends that visited me, there came a cashier of Signor Bindo Altoviti, whose name was Bernardo Galluzzi, whom I had entrusted with the value of several hundred crowns. This young man came to the privy garden with an intention to settle accounts, and restore to me all I had deposited with him: I told him that I could not put my property into the hands of a dearer friend, nor into any place where it could be more secure: my friend upon this seemed to decline keeping it, and I, by a sort of violence, obliged him to continue his trust. When I was come out of the castle this last time, I understood that poor Bernardo Galluzzi was a bankrupt, and that I had of consequence lost all my money.

During my confinement, I had moreover a terrible dream, in which a person appeared to write certain words of great importance upon my forehead with a reed, at the same time strictly charging me not to divulge what he had been doing; and when I awoke in the morning I perceived that my forehead was all daubed. In the verses composed during my confinement there are several events of a similar nature. I likewise received a circumstantial account, without knowing to whom I owed my intelligence, of all that happened afterwards to Signor Pierluigi; and it was so clear and express in every article that I have often thought I received it from an heavenly angel.

Another circumstance I must not omit, which is one of the most extraordinary things that ever happened to any man, and I mention it in justice to God, and the wonderous ways of his providence towards me. From the very moment that I beheld the phenomenon, there appeared (strange to relate) a resplendent light over my head, which has displayed itself conspicuously to all that I have thought proper to shew it to, but those were very few. This shining light is to be seen in the morning over my shadow till two o'clock in the afternoon, and it appears to the greatest advantage when the grass is moist with dew: it is likewise visible in the evening at sun-set. This phenomenon I took notice of when I was at Paris, because the air is exceeding clear in that climate, so that I could distinguish it there much plainer, than in Italy, where mist are much more frequent; but I can still see it even here, and shew it to others, though not to the same advantage as in France. I shall now lay before the reader the verses which I composed during my confinement and in praise of the prison; I shall then relate all the good and evil which befel me upon a variety of different occasions, as likewise the various events of the subsequent course of my life.

These verses I inscribe to Luca Martini.

## VERSES CALLED THE CAPITOLO,

WRITTEN DURING THE AUTHOR'S IMPRISONMENT  
IN THE CASTLE OF ST. ANGELO.

HE who would sound the depths of power divine,  
Should for a time in gloomy dungeon dwell  
Where grief corrodes and harrows up the soul.  
Domestic care should prey upon his mind  
To sorrow and to crosses long inur'd,  
By various troubles and by tempests tost.



Would you improve in virtue's rigid lore  
 By sad imprisonment? your lot should be  
 Unjust confinement, long in grief your chain  
 You comfortless should drag, and no relief  
 No kind assistance from a friend receive.  
 You should by jailors of your property  
 Be cruelly depriv'd and roughly us'd,  
 Nor ever hope for liberty again.  
 Frantic with rage you should your prison break  
 Urg'd by some fell oppressor's cruel wrongs,  
 And then in deeper dungeon be confin'd,  
 Dear Luca, listen with attentive ear,  
 Whilst I my dire calamities relate;  
 What sufferings could be worse? to break a leg,  
 In moist, damp, noisome cell to be confin'd,  
 Without a cloak to shelter me from cold!  
 Think what I suffer'd in these cells immur'd  
 Lonely, from human converse quite debarr'd,  
 My daily pittance brought me by a slave,  
 A surly monster silent and severe.  
 Think to what ills ambition does expose,  
 What dangers threaten an aspiring soul.  
 Think what it was to have no place to sit,  
 Or rest my head on, but a corner foul,  
 All cover'd o'er with filthy excrements,  
 At every hour of tedious night and day  
 By cares unceasing to be kept awake.  
 O think how dismal that to this sad cell  
 None should approach, but mutes in silence wrapt,  
 Who sternly frown'd, nor e'er an answer deign'd.  
 How sad it was that in such horid cave  
 The poet's fancy wont to soar, to rove  
 In sprightly sallies, now should be confin'd  
 To pine the solitary hours away!  
 How sad to be restrain'd from pen and ink!  
 Nor even allow'd the poet's sad relief,  
 To scrawl with charcoal on my prison walls!

But hold, my sorrows make me deviate far  
 From the first purpose of my moral song.  
 I meant a prison's praises to proclaim,  
 To shew what usefull lessons may be learn'd  
 In deep distres and sharp affliction's school :  
 Few inmates of such dreary solitudes  
 Were ever equal to this arduous task.  
 In those receptacles of guilt and vice  
 The man of virtue seldom is imur'd,  
 Except when fallen a victim to the hate  
 Of ministers and servile tools of power ;  
 Except through envy, anger or despite.  
 Confin'd in dungeon deep, in gloomy cell  
 The prisoner oft invokes God's awful name,  
 Yet feels within the torments of the damn'd.  
 Howe'er traduc'd and blacken'd by the tongue  
 Of calumny, to reputation lost,  
 Pass two unhappy years in prison pent,  
 You'll then come out reform'd ; with manners pure,  
 The world will love you, will forget the past,  
 Imprisonment with all your faults atone.  
 Within the darksome round of prison walls,  
 Relentless walls where comfort never dwells !  
 The mental powers, the faculties decline,  
 The body like its covering decays,  
 Yet here too, grossest wits by constant woe  
 Are sharpn'd sublimated and refin'd,  
 Genius midst sufferings imp's her wings and soars,  
 And from these gloomy cells, in prospect bright  
 Though distant, heaven's blest regions are discry'd.  
 Hear how invention's aid our wants supplies  
 And great difficulties can surmount.  
 Staring, aghast I stalk about the room,  
 My hair with horror bristled on my head,  
 Like quills upon the fretful porcupine,  
 Next from a pannel of the door I tear.  
 A splinter with my teeth, expedient strange !  
 Cruel necessity such means suggest.  
 A brick reduc'd to power then I mix  
 With water kneading both into a mash.



Poetic genius fill'd my labouring breast,  
 And all my soul was by the muse inspir'd.  
 But to resume the subject of these lays;  
 He who desires to know and to enjoy  
 The good, that heaven bestows upon our kind,  
 Should first be practis'd in the train of ills,  
 Which in his wisdom God inflicts on man.  
 A prison prompts and teaches every art;  
 If medical assistance you require,  
 Through ev'ry open'd pore it makes you sweat.  
 With some strange virtue are its walls indu'd!  
 To make you learned, eloquent and brave,  
 And by enchantment wonderful its power  
 Your raptur'd fancy ever can delight  
 With florid, gay ideas, fairy scenes.  
 Though wisdom is in prison dearly bought,  
 Happy the man who there is taught her lore;  
 The genius is not by confinement cramp't,  
 But spreads untutor'd its adventrous wings  
 To treat of gravest subjects, war or peace.  
 His efforts always with success are crown'd,  
 What steadiness the mind in durance learns!  
 No more elate by fortune's wanton smiles,  
 Nor sunk dejected and depress'd with woe.  
 Perhaps you'll tell me all these years are lost,  
 That wisdom never was in prison learn'd;  
 I speak but what I feel; experience shews,  
 That ev'n a dungeon may be wisdom's school,  
 But would to heaven our laws were so contriv'd  
 That guilty man no longer had the power  
 To scape that prison, which their crimes deserve.  
 The man of low degree by fortune doom'd  
 To drudge for a subsistence, there should gain  
 Experience, there should learn to act his part.  
 He thus would be less liable to err,  
 Less prone to stray from reason's equal path,  
 The world would then no longer be a stage  
 Of dire confusion, and a chaos wild.  
 Whilst in a gloomy dungeon's dark recess

Monks, priests and men of rank I saw confin'd,  
 But fewest still of those who for their deeds  
 Seem'd most deserving of that rigid lot.  
 What poignant grief prevades a prisoner's breast,  
 When some sad partner of his dire distress  
 Loose from his chain first sees the prison door  
 Op'd to admit him to bless'd liberty?

What cruel anguish wrings his tortured breast?  
 He wishes that he never had been born.  
 Though long corroding grief upon my heart  
 Relentless prey'd though oft my labouring brain  
 Has almost grown distracted with my woes,  
 Midst all my ills some comfort strange I found,  
 Unknown to those who slumber life away  
 Upon the down of ease, whose happy lids  
 Were never sulli'd with a gushing tear.

What raptures would transport my ravish'd breast  
 Should some one say to me with friendly voice,  
 Hence, Benvenuto, go, depart in peace!  
 How often has a deadly pale o'erspread  
 My livid cheeks, whilst in a dungeon deep  
 I pin'd and sigh'd my hapless hours away!  
 Depriv'd of liberty I now no more  
 To France or Florence can at will repair!  
 Though were I even in France' I might not there  
 Meet tender treatment to relieve my woe.  
 I say not this against that noble soil,  
 Whose lillies have illum'd heaven and earth;  
 But amidst roses thistles often grow.  
 I saw an emblem from the heavens descend  
 Swiftly amongst the vain, deluded crowd,  
 And a new light was kindled on the rock:  
 He who on earth and in high heaven explains  
 The truth, had told me that the castle bell  
 Should, ere I thence could make escape, be broke.  
 Then in a vision mystic I beheld  
 A long black bier on every side adorn'd  
 With broken lillies, crosses and with plants;  
 And many persons I on couches saw

Diseas'd and rack'd with anguish and with pain.  
 I saw the demon; the tormenting fiend  
 That persecutes the souls of mortal men,  
 Now with his horrors these, now those appal ;  
 To me he turn'd, and said, I'll pierce the heart  
 Of whosoever hurts or injures thee.  
 Herewith upon my forehead words he wrote  
 Obscure, profound with Peter's mystic reed,  
 And silence solemnly enjoin'd me thrice.  
 I saw the power divine, who leads the sun  
 His great career, and checks him in his course,  
 Amidst his court celestial brightly shine :  
 The dazzled eyes of mortals seldom see  
 A vision with such various glories fraught.

I heard a solitary bird of night,  
 Sing on a rock a dismal fun'ral dirge ;  
 I thence infer'd with certainty, this note  
 To me announces life, but death to you.  
 My just complaint I then both sang and wrote,  
 Implor'd God's pardon and his friendly aid;  
 For sight began to fail me, and I felt  
 The iron hand of death upon my eyes.  
 Never was lion, tyger, wolf or bear  
 Of human blood more thirsty, than the foe  
 That now with furious rage attack'd my life ;  
 More poisonous never was the viper's bite ;  
 The foe, I mean a cruel captain, came  
 Attended with a band of ruffians vile.  
 Just as rapacious bailiffs haste to seize  
 A trembling debtor with relentless hands,  
 So rush'd those sons of brutal force upon me.  
 'Twas on the first of August that they came  
 To drag me to a dismal dungeon, worse  
 By far than that in which so long I'd groan'd,  
 A cell in which the most abandon'd crew,  
 The refuse of the prison are confin'd.  
 Yet in this sad distress I soon receiv'd,  
 Though unexpected, succour and relief.  
 My foes, when thus their hellish spight they saw

Defeated, to fell poison had recourse ;  
But here again the Almighty interpos'd,  
For first I ever turn'd my thoughts to God,  
And loud his grace and aid divine implor'd.

My poignant anguish being thus assuag'd.  
Whilst I prepar'd to render up my soul,  
Resign'd to pass unto a better state,  
I saw an angel from the heav'ns descend  
Holding a glorious palm-branch in his hand,  
With looks then joyous, placid and serene  
He promis'd to my life a longer date :  
The angel spoke to me in terms like these ;  
Thy foes shall all be humbled to the dust,  
And thou shalt lead a life of lasting bliss——  
Favour'd by heaven and earth's eternal sire.

## CHAPTER II.

*The author being set at liberty pays a visit to Ascanio at Tagliacozzo—He returns to Rome and finishes a fine cup for the cardinal of Ferrara—Account of his Venus and Cupid, his Amphitrite and Tritons, with other performances—He enters into the service of the French king Francis I. and sets out with the cardinal of Ferraro for Paris—Odd adventure between him and the post-master at Sienna—He arrives at Florence, where he stays four days with his sister.*

WHILST I lodged in the palace of the cardinal of Ferrara I was universally respected, and received more visits than even at first, every body expressing the highest surprize at my having emerged out of such distress, and struggled through such a variety of hardships and miseries. As I was recovering by degrees, I exerted my utmost efforts to become again expert in my profession, and took great delight in copying out the above verses. The better to re-establish my health, I rode out to take the air, having first asked the good cardinal's leave and borrowed his horses; upon these occasions I was generally accompanied by two young Roman citizens, one of whom was bred to my own business, the other not. When I was out of Rome I steered my course towards Tagliacozzo, thinking to meet

with my pupil Ascanio, of whom mention has so frequently been made ; upon my arrival I found Ascanio there with his father, his brothers, his sisters, and his mother-in-law : I met with so kind a reception, and was so greatly caressed during a stay of two days, that I am unable to give the reader an adequate idea of their civilities. I then set out for Rome and carried Ascanio with me. By the way we talked of business, and such an effect had this conversation upon me, that I grew quite impatient to be again at Rome, in order to resume my trade. Upon our return to that capital I fell to work with the utmost assiduity, and happening accidentally to find a silver bason, which I had undertaken for the cardinal just before my imprisonment (at the time that I set about this bason, I likewise began a fine cup, of which I was robbed, with several other things of great value) I put Paul, who has been spoken of above, upon the bason ; and I myself took in hand the cup, which consisted of round figures in basso relievo : in like manner the bason contained little round figures and fishes in basso relievo ; and it was so rich and the workmanship so exquisite, that all who saw it were in the utmost surprize, as well on account of the force of genius and invention of the design, as of the admirable polish, which the young artist had displayed in the execution of the work. The cardinal came at least twice every day to see me, accompanied by Signor Luigi Alamanni and Signor Gabbriele Cefano ; upon these occasions we passed an hour or two merrily, though I had a great deal of business, which required dispatch. He at the same time put several other jobs into my hands, and employed me to make his pontifical seal, which was about the size of the hand of a child twelve years old ; upon this seal I carved two little pieces of his-



tory, one was John preaching in the desert, the other was St. Ambrose routing the Arians, represented on horseback, and with a whip in his hand. The design of this seal was so bold and admirable, the workmanship of so exquisite, and the polish so fine, that every body said I had surpassed the great Lautizio, whose talents were confined to this branch alone: and the cardinal in the joy of his heart ostentatiously compared it to the other seals of the Roman cardinals, which were almost all by the above mentioned artist. At the same time that the cardinal gave me the other two jobs, he employed me to make the model of a salt-cellar, but desired it should be in a different taste from the common ones Signor Luigi said many excellent things concerning this salt-cellar; Signor Gabriele Cefano likewise spoke admirably upon the subject: but the cardinal who had listened with the utmost attention and seemed highly pleased with the designs which these two ingenious gentleman proposed, said to me, Benvenuto, the plans of Signor Luigi and Signor Gabriele please me so highly that I am in doubt which to give the preference to; I therefore leave it to you to make a choice, as you are charged with executing the work. I then said, gentlemen, do but consider of what importance the sons of kings and emperors are, and what a wonderful splendor and emanation of the Godhead is conspicuous in them; yet ask but a poor humble shepherd, which he has the greatest love and affection for, these children of emperors and kings or his own; he will, doubtless, answer you that he loves his own offspring best; in like manner I have a strong paternal affection for the child of my own begetting; so that the first model I intend to shew you, most revered patron, shall be my own work and invention; for many

plans appear very plausible when delivered in words, which have but an indifferent effect when carried into execution. I then turned about to the two virtuosi, and said, O gentlemen, you have given us your plans in words, but I will shew mine in practice. Thereupon Signore Luigi Alamanni with a smiling countenance spoke a long time in my favour, and that in the most complaisant manner imaginable : in doing this he acquitted himself with extraordinary grace, for he had a pleasing aspect, an elegant shape, and an harmonious voice. Signor Gabriele Cefano was quite the reverse of him ; as ill-shaped in his person as ungracious in his manner ; and when he spoke he acquitted himself awkwardly. The plan proposed by Signor Luigi was, that I should represent a Venus with a Cupid and several fine devices round them, suited to the subject : Signor Gabriele was for having me represent Amphitrite the wife of Neptune, and the Tritons Neptune's attendants, with other ornaments very fine in idea, but extremely difficult to be carried into execution.

I designed an oval, almost two thirds of a cubit in size ; and upon this oval, as the sea appears to embrace the earth, I made two figures about a hand high, in a sitting posture, one with his legs within those of the other, as some long branches of the sea are seen to enter the land ; and in the hand of a male figure representing the ocean, I put a ship contrived with great art, in which was deposited a large quantity of salt : under this I represented four sea-horses, and in the right hand of the ocean I put his trident. The earth I represented by a female figure, the most elegant and beautiful I could form an idea of, leaning with one hand against a grand and magnificent temple, this was to hold the pepper. In the other hand I put a cornucopia adorned with all the



embellishments I could think of. To complete this idea in that part, which appeared to be earth, I represented all the most beautiful animals which that element produces. In the part which stood for the sea, I designed the finest sorts of fish and shells which so small a space was capable of containing: in the remainder of the oval I placed several grand and noble ornaments. Having then waited till the cardinal came with the two virtuosi above mentioned, I in their presence produced my model in wax; the first who spoke was Signor Gabbriele Cefano, who made a great stir upon the occasion, and said, this is a work that the lives of ten men would be hardly sufficient to execute; and you, most reverend cardinal, who desired to have it finished in your life time, are never likely to see it: Benvenuto has indeed thought proper to shew you some of his offspring; but he has not done like us, who proposed only such things as were feasible; he has brought you a plan which it is impossible to finish. Upon this Signor Luigi Alamanni took my part. The cardinal however said he did not chuse to be concerned in so great an undertaking. I thereupon turned to them and replied, most reverend cardinal, I must beg leave to tell you that I expect to complete this work at all events, and you will see it when finished, a hundred times more luxurious in ornaments than its model; I even hope to have more than sufficient time to bring works of much greater consequence to perfection. The cardinal said in a passion, if you do not make it for the king of France to whom I intend to introduce you, there is no likelihood of your finishing it for any other person: he then shewed me the letters, in which the king wrote to him to return directly, and bring Benvenuto with him; seeing this I lifted up my hands to heaven and

exclaimed, when will that *directly* come? He bid me lose no time, but settle my affairs at Rome in ten days.

The time for our departure being arrived, the cardinal made me a present of a fine horse to which he gave the name of Tornon, because it was a present from a cardinal of that name: Paolo and Ascanio my apprentices were likewise provided with horses. The cardinal divided his retinue, which was very considerable; the chief part of it he took with him, following the road to Romagna in order to visit our lady at Loretto, and then proceed to his own house at Ferrara; the other part he sent towards Florence, this was superior in number to the former, and made a grand appearance on account of the beauty of the horses. He desired me to keep him company, if I had a mind to travel with security, telling me that if I did otherwise my life would be in danger. I gave him to understand that I proposed to follow his direction; but as what is decreed by heaven must necessarily come to pass, it pleased God to recall to my memory my poor sister, who was so much concerned for the great misfortunes I had undergone: I at the same time thought of my cousins who were nuns at Viterbo, one of them abbess, and the other treasurer, inso-much that between them they governed that rich monastery. As they had suffered so much on my account, and prayed for me so fervently, I took it for granted that I had obtained the grace of God by virtue of the prayers of these good women. These things occurring at once to my memory I took the road to Florence. Thus though I might have had all my charges borne by travelling with the cardinal and his retinue, I chose to perform the journey at my own expence, taking with me as a companion an ex-

cellent clock-maker, named Cherubino, who was my intimate friend. As we happened to meet accidentally upon the rode, we chose to perform this agreeable journey together. When I set out for Rome on Monday in passion-week, I was attended only by my two apprentices; at Monterosi I came up with the company above mentioned, and as I had signified my intention to travel with the cardinal, I did not imagine that any of my enemies would have thought of way-laying me. But I met with an unlucky disaster at Monterosi, for a body of men well armed had gone before us to that town with a design to attack me; and so it happened that whilst we were at dinner, these men, who had discovered that I had quitted the cardinal's retinue, lay in ambush for me, and were preparing to perpetrate their villainous design. Just at this juncture the retinue of the cardinal came up, and with it I travelled joyfully to Viterbo, without any sort of danger; I went on several miles before, and the bravest men in the cardinal's retinue had a high esteem for me.

Being by God's providence arrived safe and in good health at Viterbo, I was received with the utmost kindness by my sisters and the whole monastery: after leaving that city with the company above-mentioned, we rode on sometimes before and sometimes behind the retinue of the cardinal, so that on Holy Thursday we were come within a stage of Sienna. Perceiving that there were some returned horses in the inn, and that the post-master waited an opportunity to give them to travellers to ride back to Sienna, I instantly dismounted from my horse Ternon, and putting my saddle and stirrups upon him, gave a piece of money to one of the post-boys; then leaving my horse to the care of my apprentices, I spurred on in order to get to Sienna half an hour before the

rest, that I might have time to visit my friends and do some business in the town. Though this horse carried me with tolerable speed, I did not however ride it too hard, for it had been fatigued by going backwards and forwards. The post-boy offered to shew me a good inn in Sienna, and as soon as we arrived, I took rooms in it for five persons; the horse I sent back by the hostler to the post-house, which was without the gate that leads to Comollia; and upon it I had through forgetfulness left my stirrups and saddle. We passed the night very merrily on Holy Thursday; the next day, which was Good Friday, I recollected my stirrups and saddle; upon my sending for them, the post-master made answer that he would not return them, because I had over-fatigued his horse: several messages passed between us, but he persisted in refusing to return them, and that with much opprobrious and abusive language. The inn-keeper at whose house I lay, said to me at the same time: it is well for you if he does not do something worse than keeping your saddle and your stirrups; he was one of the most insolent men that has ever had the place of post-master in this city, and he has two sons in the army who are desperate fellows, and more insolent than their father himself: he therefore advised me to make all the haste I could in buying whatever I might stand in need of, and leave the place directly without entering into any contest with him. I there-upon bought a pair of stirrups, thinking to recover my saddle by fair means, as I was extremely well mounted, armed with a coat of mail, and had an excellent piece at the pannel of my saddle, I was not in the least intimidated by this report of the insolence and brutality of the post-master. I had likewise used my apprentices to wear coats of mail un-

der their cloaths, and I had great confidence in my young Roman, who seemed never to have neglected this defence, whilst we were at Rome. Even Ascanio, though in his tender years, wore a coat of mail, and as it was Good Friday, I imagined that the folly of those wretches would for that day subside.

We soon arrived at the post-house at Comollia, and I immediately saw and knew the post-master by tokens that had been given me, particularly by his being blind of an eye. I went up to him, and leaving my two young fellows and the rest of my company at a little distance, said mildly: Mr. Post-master, when I assure you that I have not rode your horse very hard, why do you make a difficulty of restoring me my saddle and stirrups? He answered with all the violence and brutality I had been prepared for: I thereupon said to him, what, are you a christian, and do you intend to bring a scandal both upon yourself and me this Good Friday? He made answer that he cared neither for Good Friday not the devil's Friday, and that if I did not get about my business, he would soon with his long pike lay me sprawling upon the ground, though I had a musket in my hand. Upon his speaking to me thus roughly, there came up an old gentleman of Sienna, a very polite worthy man, who was just come from performing the devotions usual on that day: having though at a distance heard what I had to say for myself, and perceiving that I was in the right, he boldly reprov'd the post-master, took my part, and reprimanded the two sons for behaving rudely to strangers, by swearing and blaspheming, and thereby bringing a scandal upon the city of Sienna. The two young fellows, sons to the post-master, shook their heads,



and without returning any answer retired. The incensed father exasperated by what was said, by the worthy gentleman that interposed in my behalf, ran at me with his long pike, cursing and blaspheming, and swore he would instantly be the death of me. When I saw him thus determined, I to keep him off for a while, presented the muzzle of my peace to him. He notwithstanding flew at me with redoubled fury, and the gun which I held in my hand, though in a proper position for my defence, was not rightly levelled at him, but the muzzle being raised aloft, it went off of itself: the ball hit against the arch over the street-door, and having rebounded entered the post-master's wind-pipe who instantly fell dead on the ground. His sons thereupon rushed out of the house, and one having taken down arms from a rack, whilst the other seized his father's pike, they both fell upon the young men in my company: the son who had the pike, wounded Paolo Romano in the left breast; and the other fell upon a Milaneze in our company, a foolish fellow, who would not ask quarter or declare that he had no connexion with me, but defending himself against a partisan with a short stick which he had in his hand, found himself unable to parry his adversary's weapon so as to prevent his being slightly wounded in the mouth. Signor Cherubino was in the habit of a priest, and though he was an excellent clock-maker, as I observed before, he had several benefices conferred on him by the pope, which produced him a considerable income. Ascanio was likewise well armed and stood his ground bravely, instead of offering to fly like the Milaneze, so that these two received no manner of hurt. I spurred my horse, and whilst it was in full gallop, I quickly charged my piece again; then I turned back in a passion, think-

ing that what I had done was but a trifle ; for as I thought my two young men were killed, I advanced with a firm resolution to die myself, or revenge their cause. My horse had not gone many paces back, when I met them both coming towards me ; I asked them whether they were hurt, and Ascanio made answer that Paolo had received a mortal wound with a pike. I thereupon said to the latter, my dear Paolo, how comes this ? Could a pike force its way through a coat of mail ? He then told me that he put his coat of mail into a clock-bag. I replied, what this morning ? It seems then that coats of mail are worn at Rome to make a shew before the ladies ; but in times of danger, when they might be of use, they are put into the clock-bag ! You deserved all you have suffered, and what you have done is the cause of my ruin, Whilst I uttered these words I continued to turn back resolutely. Ascanio and the other earnestly intreated me that I would for the love of God endeavour to save my life, as well as theirs, for that I was hurrying on to destruction. Just then I met Signor Cherubino, and the Milaneze, the former of whom reproved me for my vain fears, telling me that none of my people had been hurt, that Paolo's wound had only razed the skin, and had not gone deep, and that the old post-master lay dead upon the ground ; he added that the sons had got themselves in readiness, and being assisted by several other persons would certainly cut us all to pieces : therefore, Benvenuto, continued he, since fortune has saved us from their first fury, let us tempt her no more, for she will not save us twice. I then said, since you are satisfied, I am content ; so turning to Paolo and Ascanio, I bid them spur their horses hard, and gallop on to Staggia without ever once stopping,

observing that when we were there we should be in safety. The wounded Milaneze then said, pox of this plaguy adventure; this mischief was owing to a little soup which I eat yesterday, when I had nothing else for my dinner. Notwithstanding our great distress we could not help laughing at the fool, and at his silly expressions. We clapped spurs to our horses and left Signor Cherubina and the Milaneze, who were for riding on gently, to follow us at their leisure. In the mean time the sons of the deceased repaired the duke of Melfi, and requested him to grant them a troop of light horse to pursue and take us. The duke being informed that we belonged to the retinue of the cardinal of Ferrara, would not grant their request. In the mean time we arrived at Staggia, where we were in perfect security; upon our arrival we sent for the best surgeon that could be found in the place, who examining Paolo's wound, declared that it did not pass the skin and there was no danger: we then ordered dinner to be got ready. Soon after Signor Cherubino made his appearance with the fool of a Milaneze who was constantly exclaiming; pox of all quarrels and disputes; adding that he had incurred excommunication, because he had no time to say his pater-noster that good morning. This man was hard-favoured and had naturally an ugly wide mouth, but by the wound he had received it was enlarged above three inches: these circumstances with his ludicrous Milaneze jargon, and his foolish sayings made us merrily, that instead of lamenting our ill-fortune we could not help laughing at every word he uttered. As the surgeon wanted to sew the wound in his mouth, and had already made three stitches in it, he desired him to stop, telling him he would not upon any account have him sew it up entirely: he then took



up a spoon, and desired it might be left so far open as to leave room for such a spoon to enter, that he might return alive to his own country. These words which he uttered with many nods ludicrous gestures, made us so merry, that instead of bewailing our ill-fortune, we never ceased laughing, and in this manner continued our journey to Florence. We dismounted at the house of my poor sister, where we were most kindly received, very much caressed by her and my cousin: Signor Cherubino and the Milaneze went where there respective affairs called them; we stayed four days at Florence during which Paolo was cured. The most diverting circumstances was, that whenever the fool of a Milaneze became the subject of discourse, we all laughed as heartily, as we lamented our other misfortunes, insomuch that we were constantly laughing and crying in the same breath.

## CHAPTER III.

*The author arrives at Ferrara where he is caressed by the sovereign of that dutchy, and employed to make his statute in marble—The climate disagrees with him, and he is taken ill, but recovers by eating wild peacocks—Misunderstanding between him and the duke's servants, attended with several untoward circumstances—After many difficulties and delays he resumes his journey and arrives safe at Lyons, from whence he proceeds to Fontainebleau, where the court at this time resided.*

AFTER we had staid four days at Florence, we took the road to Ferrara, and there found the cardinal, who having heard all the cross accidents that had befallen us, said with concern, God grant that I may carry you alive to the king, according to my promise to his majesty. The cardinal assigned me an apartment in a palace of his at Ferrara, a magnificent building Belfiore, contiguous to the walls of the city; and then he caused tools and all necessary to be provided for me, that I might work at my business. He then ordered his retinue to set out for France without me, and seeing me very melancholy at being left behind, he said to me, Benvenuto, all I do is for your good; for before you leave Italy, I should be glad you were upon a cer-

certainty with regard to your employment in France: in the mean time proceed as fast as you can with the bason and the little cup ; and I will leave orders with my steward to supply you with whatever money you may want. Upon his departure I remained highly dissatisfied, and often thought of leaving the place : the only consideration that prevented me, was my being then out of the power of pope Paul ; for in all other respects I was highly discontented and very much a sufferer. I however assumed those sentiments of gratitude, which the favour seemed to deserve, endeavouring to wait with patience and see how this adventure would end : I fell therefore hard to work with my two apprentices, and went surprizingly forward with my bason and cup. In the part of the city where we lodged, the air was rather unwholesome, and as we came about summer-time, we were somewhat indisposed : during this our indisposition we made a discovery of a sort of great common, about a mile in extent, that belonged to the palace in which we lived, and where several peacocks came like wild fowl to hatch their eggs. When I perceived this, I charged my piece with powder, and laying in wait for the young peacocks, I every day killed one of them, which served plentifully to live upon ; and such was the effect of this food that it entirely cured our disorder. Thus we continued our work with alacrity for several months that we had to stay, and went forward with the bason and the cup, a work that required considerable application. About this time the duke of Ferrara accommodated his differences with pope Paul, relative to Modena and some other cities ; and as the claims of the church were just, the duke made his peace by dint of money ; the sum given upon the occasion was considerable, and I think it exceeded

three hundred thousand ducates. The duke had at that time an old treasurer, who had been brought up at the court of the duke his father, and whose name was Signor Girolamo Gigliolo ; this old man could not bear that so great a sum should be given to the pope, so that he ran about the streets crying out aloud ; “ Duke Alphonso, our present duke’s father, would sooner have taken Rome with this money, than have given it to the pope ; and he would obey no order for paying it. The duke having however at last forced him to pay the money, the old man was attacked by a disorder so violent that it brought him almost to the brink of the grave. Whilst he lay ill, the duke sent for me and desired me to take his likeness ; I accordingly drew his picture upon a round black stone about the size of a little dish. The duke was greatly pleased with my performance, and with some agreeable conversations which passed between us : the consequence was, that he generally staid at least four or five hours a day to have his likeness taken, and sometimes he made me sup with him at his own table. In a week’s time I finished this portrait : he then ordered me to take a reverse ; the design of it was a female figure, that represented peace holding in her hand a small torch, with which she set fire to a trophy of arms : This female figure I represented in a joyous attitude, with garments of the thinnest sort which flowed with the utmost grace ; under her I designed frantic rage afflicted, and bound with heavy chains. In this work I exerted the utmost efforts of my art, and it did me great honour ; the duke repeatedly expressed the highest satisfaction at my performance, and give me the inscription for the head of his excellency as well as for the reverse. The words intended for the reverse were *Pretiosa*

*in conspectu domini* : this intimated that the peace had been dearly purchased.

Whilst I was busy about this reverse, the cardinal wrote to me to get ready, for the king insisted upon my coming directly, and that the next day I heard from him, I should receive an order for all he had promised me. I caused my bason and cup to be packed up, having before shewed them to the duke. A gentleman of Ferrara, whose name was Signor Alberto Bendidio, was agent to the cardinal; this person had been twelve years without ever stirring out of his house, which had brought upon him a lingering disorder. He one day sent for me in a great hurry, and said that I must that instant take post, and use the utmost expedition to wait upon the king, who had enquired for me with the greatest eagerness and solicitude, thinking I was in France. The cardinal to excuse himself had told the monarch that I had stopped at an abbey of his at Lyons, somewhat out of order, but that he would take care I should be shortly with his majesty: therefore I must take post and repair to the court of France with all speed. This Signor Alberto was a very worthy man, but haughty, and his disorder rendered his pride and humour insupportable: he told me that I must without delay prepare to ride post; I made answer that it was not customary with men of my calling to ride post; but that if I were to proceed to the court of France, I should chose to go by gentle stages, and to carry with me Ascanio and Paolo my companions and artificers, whom I had taken from Rome; adding that there must likewise be a servant with us on horseback, to attend us, and that I expected to be supplied with a sum sufficient to defray the charges of the journey. The infirm old man then proudly made answer, that the duke's sons travelled in the very



manner I had described. I instantly replied, that the sons of the art which I professed, travelled in the manner I said, and that as I had never been the son of a duke, I did not know how such gentry appeared on their journies ; therefore I could not go to France at all, as well because the cardinal had broke the promise he had made me, as by reason I had now received such abusive language. I then formed a resolution to have no more dealings with the people of Ferrara, and having spoke thus, I departed, murmuring my discontent, whilst he continued to bully and insult me. After this I waited on the duke with his medal finished : his reception of me was the kindest imaginable, and no man was ever more caressed by a prince. He had given orders to Signor Girolamo Gigliolo, who was then recovered, to look out for a dimond ring worth above two hundred crowns, as the reward of my labour, and put it into the hands of Fraschino, one of the gentlemen of his bed-chamber, who was to give it to me : these orders were obeyed. Fraschino on the same evening that I had given him the medal, put a ring into my hands with a diamond set in it, which made a great shew, and told me from the duke, that my masterly hand which had acquitted itself so admirably in consecrating the memory of his excellency, well deserved to be adorned with such a diamond. The day following I examined the ring, the diamond of which was an inconsiderable one, not worth above ten crowns ; and as I could not conceive that the duke could use such grand expressions in giving so trifling a premium, or that he imagined he had properly recompenced me, I took it for granted that the rogue of a treasurer had played me a trick. I therefore gave the ring to a friend, desired him to contrive some way or other to return it to Fraschino, the gentleman of the bed-chamber :

this friend, was Bernardo Saliti, who performed the commission admirably. Fraschino immediately came to me, and made a terrible stir, telling me that if the duke was to discover that I had been so rude as to return a present, which he had made me in so kind and gracious a manner, he would certainly resent it, and I might very possibly repent my having taken so indiscreet a step. To this I answered, that the ring which his excellency had sent me, was not worth, above ten crowns, and the work which I had done for him came to above two hundred; but to shew his excellency that it was his favour alone I set a value upon, he might send me one of those English crab-rings, which are worth only ten pence, and I would keep it in remembrance of him as long as I lived, at the same time retaining in my mind those honourable expressions of his excellency concerning my genius and abilities; for I considered my labour as abundantly paid by the honour of having served so great a prince, whereas a jewel of so little value disgraced me. These words occasioned the duke so much displeasure, that he sent for his treasurer, and reprov'd him most severely; he at the same time sent me orders not to leave Ferrara, without apprizing him of my departure, and commanded his treasurer to give me a diamond worth three hundred crowns. The avaricious treasurer found one, the value of which was not above sixty crowns, and maintained that it was worth above two hundred.

In the mean time Signor Alberto had taken the right method of proceeding, and furnished me with all I had desired for my journey. I had resolved by all means to quit Ferrara directly, but the duke's careful chamberlain had so concerted matters with Signor Benedetto, that I could not that day provide



myself with horses. I had loaded a mule with my baggage, and with it I packed up the bason and the cup which I had made for the cardinal. Just at this juncture came in a gentleman of Ferrara, whose name was Signor Alphonso de Trotti : he was advanced in years, exceeding affable, and delighted greatly in talents and genius ; but at the same time he was one of those that are very hard to be pleased, and who, if they happen to see any thing which strikes them, represent it to their imaginations as so admirable, so divine, that they never expect again to see any thing equal to it. Signor Alphonso, as I before observed, happening to enter the room just at this time, Alberto said to him, it happens unluckily that you are come too late, for the cup and bason that we are sending to France to the cardinal are now packed up. Alphonso hearing this, said, he did not care ; and upon beckoning to his servant, the latter went to his house and brought from thence a white bowl of porcelain, the workmanship of which was admirable : whilst the servant was going on his errand, Alphonso said to Alberto, I will tell you why I have no longer any curiosity to see cups or any other sort of vases ; I once beheld an antique silver cup of such extraordinary beauty, that human imagination is incapable of forming an adequate idea of its excellence. Since that time, I am indifferent about seeing any thing else of the same kind, least it should destroy the idea that I had formed in my imagination. It was in the possession of a person of condition, of great taste, who happened to go to Rome about some business, this antique cup was shewn him secretly, and he by dint of money having corrupted the person who had the custody of it, brought it away with him : but he takes care to keep it from the knowledge of the duke, for he is

afraid he should be deprived of it, if his excellency should once come to know of his being possessed of so valuable a treasure. Whilst Alphonso was telling this long story, he never once took notice of me, though I was present all the time. In the mean while this fine piece of porcelain made its appearance, and was displayed with such pomp and ostentation, that I no sooner set my eye on it, but I turned to Alberto, and said ; I am happy in having seen this great curiosity. Alphonso then answered me with great contempt : Who are you ? You seem not to know what you are saying. To this I replied : Listen to me, and you will see which of us knows best what he is saying. Then turning to signor Alberto, who was a man of great gravity and uncommon genius, I spoke thus : Here is a little silver cup of such a weight, which I made at such a time for that mountebank Jacobo, surgeon of Carpi, who came to Rome, staid there six months, and by means of a quack medicine took in several noblemen and poor gentlemen, whom he defrauded of many thousands of ducates ; at that time I made this cup for him, and another of a different sort, and he paid me very ill, both for the one and the other. At present all the unfortunate gentlemen, who used his nostrum, are at Rome, crippled, and in a most wretched condition. It is a great honour to me that my works have acquired so high a degree of reputation among men of fortune like you ; but I must tell you that for many years past I have laboured with the utmost assiduity to learn and improve ; so that I cannot but be of opinion that the cup which I am carrying to France will prove much more worthy of the cardinal and the king, than the other did of the quack-doctor Jacobo. As soon as I had delivered myself to this effect, Al-

phonso appear to be in the utmost impatience to see the bason and cup, and I persisted in refusing to gratify his curiosity: this contest having lasted for some time between us, he declared that he would go to his excellency, and by his means contrive to get a sight of it. Thereupon Alberto Bendidio, who, as I have already observed, was a proud, haughty man, said: Before you leave this place, Signor Alphonso, you shall see it without being under a necessity of making any application to the duke. I quitted the room, and left Ascanio and Paolo to shew it to them. They afterwards told me that the gentlemen had paid me a great many compliments, and spoke highly in my favour. Signor Alphonso then expressed a desire of contracting an intimacy with me, so that I began to grow quite impatient to leave Ferrara. The only valuable or useful acquaintance I made there, were cardnial of Ravenna, with some of the connoisseurs in music; for the gentry of Ferrara are not only exceeding avaricious, but rapacious after the property of others, and endeavour to get possession of it by every expedient they can think of: this is the general character of them all. About ten o'clock Fraschino came and delivered me the diamond, which was worth above sixty crowns; desiring me, with a melancholy countenance, and in few words, to wear it for his excellency's sake. I made answer, I should; I then mounted my horse, and set out upon my journey in God's name: he took notice of all my gestures and words, and gave information thereof to the duke, who seemed to be incensed with what he heard to the highest degree, and was very near ordering me to be brought back.

Before night I had travelled above ten miles, trotting all the way, and upon finding myself the day

following out of the district of Ferrara, I was highly rejoiced; for I had never met with any thing good in that country, except the peacocks, by which I had recovered my health. We steared our course by mount Cenis, taking particular care to keep clear of Milan, on account of the suspicion above-mentioned, and soon after I arrived safe in health at Lyons with Paolo, Ascanio and a servant: we were all of us pretty well mounted. Upon our arrival at Lyons we stopped for several days, to wait the coming of the muleteer, who was charged with the silver bason and the cup, as likewise with part of my baggage: we were lodged in an abbey belonging to the cardinal. The muleteer being arrived, we packed every thing belonging to us very safe in a chest, and in this manner continued our journey to Paris; by the way we met with some little impediments which were not of so much consequence.

## CHAPTER IV.

*The author meets with a most gracious reception from the French king—Character of that good natured monarch—The author attends the king in his tour to Dauphine—Grand retinue of that prince—The cardinal proposes to Celine to work for an inconsiderable salary—He is highly disgusted at this, and goes off abruptly upon a pilgrimage to Jerusalem—He is pursued and brought back to the king, who settles a handsome salary on him, and assigns him an house to work in at Paris—He sets out for that capital, but meets with great opposition in taking possession of the house, which he at last however completely overcomes.*

WE found the court of the French monarch at Fontainebleau, where we waited directly on the cardinal, who caused apartments to be assigned us; we spent the night very agreeably, and were well accommodated. The next day the waggon came up, so we took out what belonged to us, and the cardinal having informed the King of our arrival, he expressed a desire to see me directly. I waited on his majesty accordingly, with the cup and bason so often mentioned; being come into his presence I kissed his knee, and he received me in the most gracious manner imaginable. I then returned his majesty



thanks for having procured me my liberty, observing that every good and just prince, like his majesty was bound to protect all men eminent for any talent, especially such as were innocent, like myself; and that such meritorious actions were set down in the books of the Almighty, before any other virtuous deeds whatever. The good king listened to me till I had made an end of my speach, and expressed my gratitude in terms worthy of so great a monarch. When I had done, he took the cup and bason, and said to me; it is my real opinion that the antients were never capable of working in so excellent a taste; I have seen all the master-pieces of the greatest artists of Italy, but never before beheld any thing that give me such high satisfaction. This the king said in French to the cardinal of Ferrara, at the same time paying me several other compliments greater even than this. He then turned about, and said to me in Italian; Benvenuto, indulge yourself, and take your pleasure for a few days, in the mean time I shall think of putting you into a way of making some curious pieces of work for me. The cardinal of Ferrara soon perceived that his majesty was highly pleased with my arrival, and that the specimens he had seen of my abilities had excited in him an inclination to employ me in the other works of greater importance.

Whilst we followed the court, we may justly be said to have been in great streights, and the reason is, that the king travels with upwards of twelve thousand horses, his retinue in time of peace being eighteen thousand; we sometimes danced attendance in places where there are hardly two houses, were often under the necessity of pitching tents, and living like gypsies. I frequently solicited the cardinal to put the king in mind of employing me;

he made answer, That it was best his majesty should think of it himself, advising me to appear sometimes in his presence, when he was at table. This advice I followed, and the king one day called me to him whilst he was at dinner ; he told me in Italian, that he proposed I should undertake some pieces of great importance, that he would soon let me know where I was to work, and provide me with tools and all things necessary ; he at the same time conversed with me in a free easy manner, on a variety of different subjects. The cardinal of Ferrara was present, for he almost always dined with the king : the conversation being over, his majesty rose from the table, and the cardinal said in my favour, as I was informed afterwards, May it please your majesty, this Benvenuto has a great desire to be at work, and it would be a pity to let such a genius loose his time. The king made answer, That he was very right, and desired him to settle with me all that concerned my subsistance. The cardinal, who had received the commission in the morning, sent for me that night after supper, and told me from the king, that his majesty had resolved that I should immediately begin to work ; but that he desired first to know my terms. To this the cardinal added, it is my opinion, that if his majesty allows you a salary of three hundred crowns a year, it will be abundantly sufficient. Next I must request it of you, that you will leave the whole of this affair to me ; for every day I have opportunities of doing good in this great kingdom, and I shall be always ready to assist you to the best of my power. I made answer ; without my ever soliciting you reverence you promised upon leaving me behind you in Ferrara, never to let me quit Italy, or bring me into France, without first apprizing me upon what terms I was to be with his majesty.



But instead of acquainting me with the terms, you sent me express orders to ride post, as if riding post was my business. If you had then mentioned three hundred crowns, as a salary, I should not have thought it worth my while to stir for double the sum : I notwithstanding return thanks to Heaven and to your reverence, since God has made you the instrument of so great a blessing as my deliverance from a long imprisonment. I therefore declare, that all the hurt you can do me, is not equal to a thousandth part of the great blessing for which I am indebted to you I thank you with all my heart, and take my leave of you ; and in whatever part of the world I shall abide, I shall always pray for your reverence. The cardinal then said in a passion ; Go wherever you think proper, for it is impossible to serve any man against his will. Some of his niggardly followers then said, this man must have a high opinion of his merit, since he refuses three hundred crowns : others amongst the connoisseurs replied, The king will never find another artist equal to this man, and yet the cardinal is for bating him down as he would a faggot of wood. It was Signor Luigi Alamanni that said this, the same who at Rome gave me the model of the salt-cellar ; a person of great accomplishments, and a favour of men of genius ; I was afterwards informed, that he had expressed himself in this manner before several of the noblemen and courtiers. This happened at a castle in Dauphine, the name of which I cannot recollect ; but there we lodged that evening.

Having left the cardinal, I repaired to my lodging, for we always took up quarters at some place not far from the court, but this was three miles distant. I was accompanied by a secretary of the cardinal of Ferrara, who happened to be quartered

in the same place. By the way this secretary, with a troublesome and impertinent curiosity, was continually asking me what I intended to do with myself when I got home, and what sallery I should have expected. I, who was half angry, half grieved, and highly provoked at having taken a journey to France, and being afterwards offered no more than three hundred crowns a year, never once returned him any answer; I said nothing more to him, but that I knew all. Upon my arrival at our quarters, I found Paolo and Ascanio, who were waiting for me: I appeared to be in great disorder, and they, knowing my temper, forced me to tell them what had happened: seeing the poor young men terribly frightened, I said to them, to-morrow morning I will give you money enough to bear your charges home, for I purpose going by myself about some business of importance; it is an affair that I have long revolved in my mind, and there is no occasion for your knowing it. Our apartment was next to that of the secretary, and it seems very probable that he might have acquainted the cardinal with all that I intended, and was firmly resolved to do; tho' I could never discover whether he did or not. I lay restless the whole night, and was in the utmost impatience for the approach of day, in order to put my design in execution. As soon as morning dawned, I ordered my horses should be in readiness, and having got ready myself likewise, I gave the young men all that I had brought with me, with fifty gold ducats over, and kept as many for myself, together with the diamond, which the duke had made me a present of; taking with me only two shirts, and some very indifferent cloaths to travel in, which I had upon my back. But I could not get rid of the two young men, who were bent on going with me by all

means. I did my utmost to dissuade them, and said, one of you has only the first down upon his cheeks, and the other has not even that; I have done my utmost to teach you my profession, inso-much that you are become the two most expert young men in your way in Italy; are you not then ashamed that you cannot contrive to do for yourselves, but must be always under my care like children? This is a sad affair, and if I were to dismiss you without money, what would you say? Be gone directly, and may God give you a thousand blessings; so farewell. I thereupon turned my horse about, and left them both bathed in tears. I took a delightful path through a wood, intending to ride at least forty miles that same day, to the utmost remote corner I could possibly reach. I had already rode about two miles, and in the little way I had gone, formed a resolution to stop at no place where I was known; nor did I ever intend to work upon any other figure but a Christ about three cubits high, willing to make as near an approach as possible to that extraordinary beauty which had been so often displayed to me in visions. Having now settled every thing in my own mind, I bent my course towards the holy sepulchre, thinking I was now got to such a distance, that no body could overtake me.

Just at this time I found myself pursued by men on horseback, which occasioned me some apprehensions, for I had been informed that these parts were infested by numbers of free-booters, or adventurers, who rob and murder passengers, and who, though many of their gang are hanged almost every day, do not seem to be in the least intimidated. Upon the near approach of the horsemen, I perceived them to be one of the king's messengers accompa-

nied by Ascanio; the former upon coming up to me said, I command you in the king's name to repair to him directly; I answered, you come from the cardinal of Ferrara, for which reason I am resolved not to go with you. The man replied, that since I would not go by fair means, he had authority to command the people to bind me hand and foot like a prisoner. Ascanio at the same time did his utmost to persuade me to comply, reminding me that whenever the the king of France caused a man to be imprisoned, it was generally five years before he consented to his releasement. The very name of a prison revived the idea of my confinement at Rome, and so terrified me, that I instantly turned my horse the way the messenger directed, who never once ceased jabbering in French, till he had conducted me to court: sometimes he bullied me, sometimes he said one thing and sometimes another by which I was provoked to such a degree, that I was almost at my wits end.

In our way to the king's quarters, we passed before those of the cardinal of Ferrara, who being at his door, called me to him, and said, our most Christian king has of his own accord assigned you the same salary that he allowed Leonard de Vinci the painter, namely, seven hundred crowns a year: we will pay you over and above for whatever you do for him; he likewise makes you a present of five hundred crowns for your journey; and it is his pleasure that they should be paid you before you stir from hence. When the cardinal had made an end, I answered that these indeed were offers worthy of so great a monarch. The messenger, who did not know who I was, seeing such great offers made me in the king's name, asked me a thousand pardons. Paolo and Ascanio said, it is to God we owe this

great good fortune. The day following I went to return his majesty thanks, who ordered me to make him models to twelve silver statutes, which he intended should serve as candlesticks round his table ; he desired they should be the figures of six god's and six goddesses, made exactly of his own height, which was very little less than three cubits. When he had given me this order, he turned to his treasurer, and asked him whether he had paid me five hundred crowns ; the treasurer made answer that he had heard nothing at all of the matter ; this the king was highly offended at, as he had commanded the cardinal to speak to him about it. He at the same desired me to go to Paris, and look out for a proper house to work at my business, telling me, I should have it directly. I received the five hundred gold crowns, and repaired to Paris, to a house of the cardinal of Ferrara's, where I began to work in God's name, and made four little models half a cubit high, one in wax, of Jove, Juno, Apollo and Vulcan.

At this juncture the king coming to Paris, I waited on his majesty, and carried my models with me, as likewise the two young men, Ascanio and Paolo. When I perceived that the king was pleased with my performance, and had ordered me to make the silver Jupiter of the height above-mentioned with all possible expedition ; I informed his majesty that I had brought those two young men with me from Italy for his service, and as they were my pupils, they were likely to be of much greater use to me, who had instructed them in the principles of my art, than any of the journeymen artists of Paris. The king, in answer to this, desired me to settle on the two young men such a salary, as should appear to me handsome and sufficient to support them. I then told him, that a hundred crowns a-piece would



do, and that I had found a place very proper for carrying on my business. The place I meant belonged to his majesty, and was called the little Nello, it was then in the hands of the provost of Paris, to whom his majesty had granted it; but as the provost made no use of it, his majesty might give me leave to work in it for his service. The king made answer directly; the place you mention is a house of mine; the person to whom I have granted it does not reside nor make any sort of use of it; you may therefore take it for the purpose you mentioned. He thereupon ordered one of his officers to put me in immediate possession of the Nello. The officer declined this at first, telling the king that it was not in his power to obey him. The king replied in a passion, that he would give things to whoever he thought proper, and to such men as were of use to him and served him; for with regard to the provost, he was of no use to him at all; he therefore insisted to hear no more objections or demurs. The officers rejoined, that it would be necessary to have recourse to violence. The king then said, go thither directly, and if a little force be not sufficient, you must exert yourself. The officer immediately conducted me to the place, and I was obliged to proceed to violence, before I could take possession of it; he then bid me take care of myself, assuring me that my life was in imminent danger. I entered my new habitation, and immediately hired servants, and purchased different weapons. My situation there was very uneasy during several days, for my adversary was a gentleman of Paris, and many other gentlemen were likewise my enemies, insomuch that I constantly received fresh insults. I must not omit that his majesty took me into his service in the year of our Lord 1540, and I was then exactly forty

years old. When I found myself liable to these daily affronts, I again waited upon the king, and desired him to place me somewhere else: the answer he made was, Who are you, and what is your name? At so strange a reception, I was quite disheartened, and could not possibly guess his majesty's meaning: as I remained in silent astonishment, he repeated his question a second time. I then made answer, that my name was Benvenuto. The king said thereupon, Are you the same Benvenuto that was introduced me? Do just as you like, I give you free permission. I told his majesty that it was sufficient for me to continue in his graces, and then it was impossible for any thing to hurt me. The king replied with a smile, Go your ways, and depend upon it that my favour shall never be wanting. Immediately upon this he ordered one of his secretaries, whose name was Mons. de Villeroy, to see me properly accommodated, and provided with every thing necessary. This Villeroy was an intimate friend of the provost of Paris, in whose possession the place called Nello had been for some time. It was a large old castle, of a triangular form, contiguous to the walls of the city, but had no garrison. Mons. de Villeroy advised me to look out for some other building; for as the person to whom Nello had belonged was a man of great power, he would certainly get me assassinated. To this I made answer, that I was come from Italy to France for no other motive but to serve their great monarch; with regard to dying, I was sensible that death is the common fate of all men, and whether it happened a little sooner or a little later, was a matter of perfect indifference to me. This Villeroy was a man of excellent understanding, of most extraordinary qualifications and endowments, and exceeding rich;



he would have done any thing to hurt me, but artfully concealed his malice ; he had a grave deportment, a good aspect, and spoke deliberately. On this occasion he employed another gentleman, named Mons. de Marmande, who was treasurer of Languedoc. The first thing that this person did was to lock out for the best apartments in the building, and get them fitted up for himself. I told him, that the king had given me the place to work in for his majesty, and that I was resolved it should be inhabited only by myself and my servants. Whereupon this man, who was proud and audacious, declared that he would do as he thought proper, that contending with him would do as he thought proper, that contending with him would be the same thing as running my head against a wall. And that he had Villeroy's authority for all he did. I then replied, that I claimed the place by the kings's authority, and that neither he nor Villeroy had any right to act in that manner. When I had expressed myself to this effect, the haughty treasurer grossly abused me in French ; whereupon I told him in my own language that he was a liar. At this he was incensed with rage, and by his gestures seemed just going to draw his hanger ; I instantly clapped my hand to a large cutlass, which I constantly wore by my side for my defence, and said to him ; if you offer to draw that hanger, I will instantly kill you. He had with him two servants, and I had two apprentices : whilst Mons. de Marmande remained thus in suspense without determining upon any thing, and rather inclined to mischief than otherwise, he muttered to himself ; I will never put up with this treatment. As I saw that he had bad intentions, I determined directly what conduct to pursue, and said to Paolo and Ascanio ; as soon as you see me

draw my cutlass, fall upon these fellows, and kill them if you can; for I will begin with destroying that villain, and then we shall make our escape, with the assistance of God. When Mons. de Marmande perceived that I had formed this resolution, he thought himself happy, if he could get out of the place alive. I wrote an account of all that had happened, in the most modest terms I could think of, to the cardinal of Ferrara, who immediately acquainted the king with the whole transaction. His majesty, highly provoked at this affair put me under the care of another of his courtiers, who was called Mons. d'Orbech. This gentlemen provided me with every thing necessary for my business, and that with the most complaisant officiousness.

## CHAPTER V.

*The king employs our author to make large silver statues of Jupiter, Vulcan, and Mars—Whilst he is at work about these, he presents his majesty with a fine bason and cup of silver, together with a salt-cellar of the same metal, of exquisite workmanship—The king expresses his satisfaction by an extraordinary act of generosity to the author, who loses the benefit of this by the avarice of the cardinal of Ferrara—His majesty, accompanied by Madame D'Estampes, and the whole court pays the author a visit—The king orders a considerable sum of money to be given him—As he is going home, he is attacked by four armed ruffians whom he repulses—Dispute between him and the French artists, whom he makes sensible of their error.*

AS soon as I had made all the necessary preparations in my house and shop, in the most convenient and most creditable manner, I began to make three models exactly of the size they were to be of in silver; these were Jupiter, Vulcan, and Mars; I made them of earth, well covered with iron, and then repaired to the king, who, was as nearly as I can recollect, ordered I should have three hundred pounds of silver to enable me to begin my work. Whilst I was making these preparations, the cup

and the golden bason, which had been several months in hand, were finished ; as soon as this was done, I got them well gilt. This appeared to be the finest piece of work that had ever been seen in France : I carried it directly to the cardinal of Ferrara, who thanked me, and waited on the king, to make him a present of it. His majesty was highly pleased, and lavished greater praises upon me than had ever been before bestowed upon any artist. In return for this present he gave the cardinal of Ferrara an abbey worth seven thousand crowns a year. At the same time he was for making me a present, but the cardinal prevented him, telling his majesty it was too soon, as I had not finished any work for him. This confirmed the king, who was one of the most generous of men, in his resolution, and he said ; for that very reason I will encourage him to exert himself, and make something masterly for me. The cardinal in the utmost confusion replied, Sire, I beg you would leave it to me, for I propose settling a pension of at least three hundred crowns a year upon him, as soon as I have taken possession of my abbey. These I never received ; but I should tire the reader's patience, If I were to relate all the diabolical tricks of that cardinal ; I shall therefore proceed to subjects of greater consequence.

I returned to Paris, and being thus become a favourite of the king, I was universally admired. As soon as I received the silver which had been promised me, I began to work at the above-mentioned statue of Jupiter ; and took into my service several journeymen. We worked day and night, with the utmost assiduity, insomuch that having finished Jupiter, Vulcan and Mars in earth, and Jupiter being pretty forward in silver, my shop began to make a grand shew. Just about this time the king made

his appearance at Paris, and I went to pay my respects to him. When his majesty saw me, he called me to him in high spirits, and asked me whether I had any thing curious to shew him at my shop, for he intended to call there. I told him all I had done, and expressed an earnest desire to see my performances. After dinner he made a party, consisting of madame D'Estampes, the cardinal of Lorraine, and some other great men, (as the king of Navarre, cousin to king Francis) and the queen his sister; the Dauphin and Dauphiness came likewise; in a word, that day all the nobility belonging to the court of France repaired to my shop. I had just got home, and was beginning to work, when the king made his appearance at my castle gate; upon hearing the sound of so many hammers, he commanded his retinue to be silent. All my people were at work, so that the king came upon us quite unexpected. As he entered the saloon, the first object he perceived was myself, with a large piece of plate in my hand, which I had not yet placed, and which was to make the body of Jupiter; another was employed on the head, another again on the legs, so that the whole shop resounded with the beating of hammers. Whilst I was at work, as I had a little French boy in the shop, who had some way or other offended me, I gave him a kick, which luckily hit between his legs; in this manner I pushed him above for cubits forward, so that when the king entered, the boy fell upon his person; the good monarch laughed heartily, and I was in the utmost confusion. His majesty began to ask me what I was about, and expressed a desire that I should proceed with my work; telling me that he should be much better pleased, if I would never harass my- with my business, but take as many men as I thought



proper into my service, for it was his desire I should take care of my health, that I might be the longer able to serve him. I answered his majesty, that if I were to discontinue working, I should not enjoy my health, and that the performance would then no longer be worthy of so great a prince. The king thinking that I said this through vanity, and did not speak my real sentiments, ordered the cardinal of Lorraine to repeat to me what he had himself proposed; but I explained myself so fully to the cardinal, that he acquiesced in my reasons, and advised his majesty to let me act as I thought proper.

The king, when he had taken a sufficient view of my work, returned to his palace, after having conferred so many favours on me, that it would be tedious to enumerate them: the day following he sent for me immediately after dinner; the cardinal of Ferrara was present and dined with him. I came just when they were at the second course; his majesty immediately began to talk to me, saying that since he had so beautiful a cup and bason of my making, he must have a handsome salt-cellar to accompany such fine things, that he wanted me to draw a design of one, and the sooner the better. I answered, his majesty should see such a design much sooner than he expected, for that while I was employed about the bason and the cup, I thought a salt-cellar would be a necessary companion to them, and therefore had already made one, which I should shew to his majesty in a few moments. The monarch turned about with great vivacity to the noblemen present, to the king of Navarre, the cardinal of Lorraine, and the cardinal of Ferrara said to them: this is so obliging a man, that whoever has heard his character, would be desirous to know him; he then told me he would be glad to



to see my design. I went for it and soon returned, for I had nothing to do but cross the Seine: I brought with me a model of wax, which I had made at Rome at the request of the cardinal of Ferrara. Upon shewing it to the king, he expressed great surprize, and said, this is a much finer design than I expected; it is a most noble production; such a genius should never be unemployed; he then turned to me and said with great chearfulness, that he was highly pleased with my model, and should be glad to have a salt-cellar made according to it in gold. The cardinal of Ferrara tipped me the wink, giving me to understand, that he knew this to be the same model I had made for him at Rome. I thereupon repeated what I had before told him, that I had made it for one who would pay for it. The cardinal recollecting these words, was nettled, and had a mind to take his revenge: he therefore thus addressed the king: Sire, this is certainly a great undertaking, I have only one objection to make, namely, that I never expect to see it finished; for men of genius who have noble and sublime ideas in their own art, are very ready to engage in grand enterprizes, without duly considering when they can bring them to a conclusion; therefore if I were to order works of such importance, I should be glad to know how soon they could be executed. The king made answer, that he who was so anxiously solicitous about the finishing of works, would never begin any; and this he said in such a manner, as intimated that he did not consider such undertakings as suitable to men of narrow minds. I then said, when princes give their servants such noble encouragement, as your majesty does both by words and deeds, they are sure of succeeding in all great undertakings; and since God has blessed me with so

munificent a patron, I flatter myself that I shall be able to execute many great and admirable works for your majesty : I do not doubt but you will, answered the king, rising from table. He sent for me to his apartment, and asked how much gold the making of the salt-cellar would require. I immediately answered him a thousand crowns. The king called for his treasurer, Mons. d'Orbech, and commanded him to give me directly a thousand old gold crowns good weight.

I quitted his majesty and sent for the two clerks, who had caused the money to be given me for the statue of Jupiter and many other things ; and having crossed the Seine, I took with me a little basket, which I had from a nun, a cousin-german of mine, in a convent at Florence ; by good luck I took this basket and not a wallet : I thought to do the business by day, as it was then early, and did not care to disturb my journeymen, nor did I even mind to carry a servant with me. I came to the treasurer's house, who had the money ready before him, and chosen the pieces out according to the directions of the monarch. It appeared to me that the villain had recourse to all the little artifices and stratagems he could think of, to delay paying me the money till late at night. I was by no means defective in diligence, but sent for some of my journeymen to come to me about business of the utmost consequence : when I found they did not appear, I asked the messenger whether he had obeyed my orders ; the scoundrel told me he had, and that they answered him they could not come ; but he would carry the money for me with pleasure : I replied, that I chose to carry it myself. In the mean time the writing was drawn up, and the money being brought, I put it all into the basket, then thrust my arm through the

two handles ; as it entered with great difficulty, the money was well secured, and I carried it with greater ease, than if I had made use of a bag. I was armed with a coat of mail, and having my sword and dagger by my side, I set out directly, for my own house, and seemed to turn down quite a different street from that I had taken. I being in great haste passed the bridge of the change, and went up by a little wall in the marshes, which carried me to my own house at Nello. When I was just at the Augustinians, a very dangerous place, though within five hundred paces of my own house, where if I had attempted to call out, my voice would not have been heard by any body, I in a moment came to a resolution, seeing four swords drawn against me ; quickly covering my basket with my cloak, I clapped my hand to my sword, and perceiving that they were eager to surround me, I told them there was nothing to be won from a soldier but his cloak and sword ; these I was resolved not to resign tamely, but to defend them at the risk of my life. Whilst I bravely opposed the villains, I several times opened my arms wide, that in case they had been set on by the servants who saw me receive the money, they might have some reason to think I could not have any such sum about me. The battle did not last long, for they began gradually to retire ; some of them said in French, this Italian is a brave fellow, he certainly cannot be the person we wanted, and even if he be the man, he has no sum of money about him. I sputtered Italian, and dealt my blows about with such dexterity that I was near killing some of them ; as I appeared to be an excellent swordsman, they thought it most likely that I was a soldier ; so they crowded close together, and imperceptibly drew off from me, muttering all the while in their own lan-

guage. I at the same time continued to say modestly and without any sort of bullying or rhodomontade, that he who wanted to possess himself of my arms and cloak, must purchase them dearly. I began to mend my pace, and they followed me slowly; my fear thereupon increased, and I was filled with apprehensions of falling into an ambush of other villains, who might surround me. But when I got within a hundred paces of my own house, I mended my pace as fast as I could; and cried out with a loud voice, Help, help, or I am assassinated. Immediately they sallied out four of my young men with long pikes, who made an offer to pursue the fellows that had attacked me, and were still in sight; but I stopped them, saying aloud, these four cowardly dogs have not been able to take from a single man a booty of a thousand gold crowns, the weight of which has almost broke his arm; let us therefore first go and lay them up, and then I will attend you with my great two handed sword, wherever you will. While we were putting up the money, the young men expressed great concern for the danger I had been exposed to, and said to me in a reprimanding tone: You have too much confidence in your own courage, which will bring you one day into some scrape, and make us all lament your unhappy fate. I had a long chat with them, and they told me that my adversaries were gone off; so we all supped cheerfully, and was very merry, making a jest of the various turns and changes of fortune, which, whether prosperous or adverse can affect us but for a time. I own it is a common saying that every reverse of fortune teaches us how to behave on another occasion; but this is not true, as the circumstances which attend each event are different, and such as could not be foreseen.

The next morning I began the great salt-cellar, and caused that and other works to be forwarded with the utmost expedition. I had by this time provided myself with several journeymen, as well for sculpture, as for the goldsmith's business: these journeymen were Italians, French and Germans, and sometimes I had a considerable number of them. When I happened to meet with able artificers (for I almost every day changed them, taking into my shop such as were most expert and knowing) I hurried them in such a manner, that unable to bear the constant labour as I did, who had received a happy constitution from nature, they endeavoured to restore and keep up their spirits by eating and drinking: some of the Germans, who were more skilful and knowing than the rest, strove to keep pace with me, but could not bear the fatigue; so that the attempt cost them their lives. Whilst I went on with the silver statute of Jupiter, seeing that I had plenty of that metal, over and above what the statute required, I without the king's knowledge, set about making a large silver vessel with two handles, about a cubit and a half high: I had likewise a fancy to cast in bronze the grand model which I had made for the silver Jupiter. I immediately began this arduous undertaking, which was of such a nature that I had never attempted any thing of the kind before; and having entered into a conversation upon the subject with some of the old experienced artists of Paris, I mentioned to them all the methods used in Italy to bring such a work to bear. They told me that they had never made use of that process, but that if I would let them take their own way, they would cast me the model of bronze as fine and exact as the earthen one. I chose to make a bargain upon employing them; and thinking their demand moderate,



promised them several crowns more than they asked. They set about the work, but I soon perceived that they did not take the right method ; I therefore began a head of Julius Cæsar, the breast covered with armour, much bigger than the life, which I took from a little model I had brought with me from Rome, representing an antique head of admirable workmanship. I likewise began another head of the same size, which was the likeness of a fine girl, who was living under my guardianship and whom I gave the name of Fontainebleau, from the seat which the king had chosen for his favourite residence. Having made a proper furnace to melt the bronze, and arranged and baked our figures, they their Jupiter, and I my two heads, I said to them, it is my opinion, that your Jupiter will not come out, as you have not blown enough under it, for the wind to play, so that you labour in vain. To this they answered, that in case their work did not they would return me the money and make good all my expences ; but they at the same time maintained that the fine heads which I wanted to cast in the Italian manner, would never succeed according to my expectation. There were present at this dispute the treasurers and other gentlemen, who came to me from the king, and who related to his majesty all that was said and done upon the occasion. The two old artists, who proposed casting the model of Jupiter, occasioned some delay in the preparations for that purpose ; they said they would gladly adjust the two moulds of my heads, it being impossible that they could succeed according to my process, and it would be a thousand pities that two such fine pieces should be spoiled. As they had informed his majesty of this, he desired they would endeavour to learn, and not take upon them to teach a



person who was master of the business. They with great laughter and merriment put their work into the mould, and I, without any sort of emotion, without either laughing or discovering any uneasiness, put my two heads on each side of the figure of Jupiter: when our metal was thoroughly melted, we poured it out with great satisfaction; the mould of Jupiter was thereupon cleverly filled, as were likewise those of my two heads at the same time: the two old artists were highly rejoiced, while I was very well pleased with my success; in short, it was an equal triumph to us both, that we had been mistaken with regard to our opinion of each other's performance. They then were in high spirits, and desired to drink, according to the French practice, which I granted, and readily entertained them with a collation. The next thing they asked me for, was the money I had agreed to give them, and what I had promised them over and above. I answered, you have been very merry, where I doubt you should have been sad; for I have taken it into consideration, that there has been a greater consumption of metal upon this job than should have been, so that I am determin'd not to let you have any more money till to-morrow morning. The poor men began to reflect seriously on this speech of mine, and, without making any answer, returned home. When they came again in the morning, they without any stir began to take the figures out of the moulds; and because they could not get at their own great figure, without first taking out my two heads, they did so accordingly, and placed them in such a manner, that they appeared to the utmost advantage. Soon after they set up so loud a cry, that I thought it was a shout of joy, and immediately ran to the workshop from my chamber, which was a considerable dis-

tance. I found them exactly in the attitude of those who guarded Christ's sepulchre, in sorrow and astonishment. I cast my eyes upon the two heads, and seeing that they made a very good appearance, I was partly pleased and partly vexed, while they excused themselves, by saying, we have been unfortunate. I answered, you have been very fortunate, but you have shewn little skill; if I had instructed you with a single word, the figure would have come out admirably, which would have been greatly to my honour, and your advantage; but as to my honour, you can easily find an excuse; you for your parts will gain neither honour nor profit; therefore another time learn to work, and not to banter and make sport of others. They begged I would take compassion upon them, acknowledging that I was in the right, and that if I did not shew them indulgence, in not obliging them to make 'good all that great expence, they must be reduced to beggary as well as their families. My answer was, that when the king's treasurers paid them what they had promised, I should fulfil my agreement, for I saw they had done their best. By acting in this manner, I greatly conciliated the good graces of the king's treasurers and ministers. A full account of the whole affair was given to his majesty, who was so generous as to order that I should be satisfied in all my demands.

## CHAPTER V.

*The author obtains a grant of naturalization motu proprio from the king, and is made lord of the house he resides at, called Piccol Nello—The king pays him another visit, accompanied by Madame D'Estampes, and orders him to set about superb ornaments for the fine fountain at Fontainebleau—In obedience to the king's commands, he makes two beautiful models of the ornaments for the fountain, and shews them to his majesty—Description of those ornaments—Remarkable conversation between him and the king upon this occasion—Madame D'Estampes is offended with the author for not taking notice of her in any of his designs—To recover her favour he waits upon her, intending to make her a present of a fine vase of silver, but is refused admittance—He presents it to the cardinal of Lorraine, who behaves most generously to him—He involves himself into a scrape by turning out of his house a favourite servant of Madame D'Estampes who had taken up his quarters there for some time—Madame D'Estampes endeavours to alienate the king from him, but the Dauphin interposes in his favour.*

**JUST** at this time arrived at court the great Piero Strozzi, who having put the king in mind of his letters of naturalization, his majesty gave orders that they should be made out directly: he at the same time said, prepare letters of naturalization,

for Benvenuto likewise, carry them to his house, and let him pay no fee whatever. Those of the great Piero cost him several hundred ducates; mine were brought me by one of the king's first secretaries, whose name was M. Antony Masson. This gentleman put the letters into my hands with many expressions of kindness from the king, and said, his majesty makes you a present of these to encourage you to serve him with the greater zeal; they are letters of naturalization. He at the same time told me that letters of the like nature had been granted with much solicitation, and as a great favour to Piero Strozzi; but that the king gave me these of his own accord; a mark of distinction which had never been shewn before to any foreigner in that kingdom. I returned my royal benefactor thanks with all possible demonstrations of gratitude, and requested the secretary to inform me what those letters of naturalization meant. The secretary was a very polite, well-bred man, who spoke Italian incomparably well; he first laughed heartily, and then resuming his gravity, told me in my own language the meaning of letters of naturalization, that it was the highest honour that could be conferred on a foreigner; and something of much greater consequence than being made a Venetian gentleman. Having quitted me, and returned to the king, he related to his majesty all that had passed between us; the monarch laughed a good while, and said, he shall know presently why I sent him the letters of naturalization. Go and make out his patent of lord of the castle of Nello, which is part of my demesne; he will understand this much more easily than he did the naturalization. There came a messenger to me from the king with the above patent, and I was for giving him a gratification, but he refused

it, telling me that he had his majesty's express orders to the contrary. The above-mentioned letters of naturalization, together with those of the castle, I took with me, when I returned to Italy; and wherever I reside, or wherever I am to finish my days, I shall always endeavour to have them with me.

I now resume the thread of my narrative. Having upon my hands the works of which I have already spoken, I mean the silver Jupiter, which was begun, the golden salt-cellar, the silver vase, and the two heads of bronze, I proceeded with expedition, and gave orders to have a basis cast for the statute of Jupiter: this I caused to be made very magnificently of bronze, set off with a variety of ornaments, amongst which I carved in basso relievo the rape of Ganimede, and on the other side Leda with her swan. The latter I cast in bronze, and it had surprising success. I made another of the same sort, intending to place upon it the statute of Juno, expecting soon to begin that likewise, if the king furnished me with silver for such an undertaking. Continuing to work with the utmost assiduity, I had already completed the silver Jupiter, and had also cast the golden salt-cellar; the cup was very forward, and the two heads of bronze were finished. I had likewise executed several little pieces for the cardinal of Ferrara, and moreover, a small silver vase of very rich workmanship, which I designed as a present to Madame D'Estampes. At the same time, I had done some jobs for several Italian noblemen, as for Signor Piero Strozzi, the count d'Anguillara, the count of Pitigliano, the the count of Mirandola, and many others. When I was pretty forward with these works for my gracious monarch, he returned to Paris, and three days after came to my house, with a number of the chief



nobility of his court. They all expressed great surprise at my being so forward with so many performances ; and as Madame D'Estampes was with him, they began to talk of Fontainebleau. The lady observed to his majesty, that he should order me to make some fine ornament for his favourite residence. The king instantly answered, what you say is very just, I will presently determine upon something handsome for him to execute. Then turning to me, he asked me, what I thought would be a proper ornament for that charming fountain. I proposed some of my fancies ; his majesty likewise told his opinion. He mentioned at the same time, that he intended going to take his pleasure for fifteen or twenty days at St. Germain en Laye, which was twelve leagues distant from Paris, desiring that I would in the mean while make a model for his seat at Fontainebleau, with the finest inventions I could think of, that being the most delightful place of recreation in his whole kingdom. He concluded with ordering me to exert my utmost efforts to produce something masterly ; I promised to do my best. The king seeing such a number of works so far advanced, said to Madame D'Estampes, I never knew a man in this way that pleased me more, or that deserved to be more encouraged ; we must endeavour to keep him here, he spends a great deal of money, is a good companion, and works hard. I am indeed under a necessity of thinking of him myself, for in all the times that he has been with me, or that I have been there, he never asked any thing ; his mind seems to be entirely taken up with his business ; I must confer some favour on the man, for fear of losing him. Madame D'Estampes replied, I will take care to put you in mind. They went away, and I proceeded with the utmost expedition in



the work I had begun ; at the same time I set about the model of a fountain, and used all dispatch in bringing it to perfection.

In about six weeks the king returned to Paris, and I, who had worked night and day, waited on his majesty with my model ; the figures were so elegant, that it was a very easy matter to understand the design. The fatal disputes between the king of France and the emperor being already renewed, I found him very pensive : and therefore addressed myself to the cardinal of Ferrara, telling him, that I had brought some models, which the king had employed me to make ; and I requested him to take the first opportunity of mentioning them to his majesty, as I was inclined to think they would afford him pleasure. The cardinal complied with my request, and spoke of the models to the king, who quickly repaired to the place where I kept them.

First of all I had designed the palace gate of Fontainebleau ; and made as little alteration as possible in the form of it, which, according to the whimsical taste of the French, seemed to be an odd mixture of greatness and littleness ; for its dimension was almost square, with a semicircle over it, bent like the handle of a basket, in which the king was desirous of having a figure to represent Fontainebleau. I gave a beautiful portion to the gate, and over it I put an exact semicircle, with some agreeable projectures on each side ; instead of two pillars, which the order of architecture seemed to require for their support, I placed two satyrs ; one of these, something above half relievo, appeared to sustain with one arm that part of the pile which touched the columns ; in the other it held a large massive club ; the countenance was so stern and fierce, as to strike terror into the beholders : the

other satyr had the same attitude, but differed from the former in the head, and some other parts ; it held in its hand a whip, with three balls fastened to certain chains. Tho' I call these figures satyrs, they had nothing in common with those sylvan gods, but certain little horns and heads, resembling that of a goat ; in all other respects they were of the human form. In the same circle I represented a female figure in a reclining attitude, with her left arm upon the neck of a hart, which was a device of the king's ; on one side of her I designed in half relief, little goats, boars, and other wild beasts ; and on the other, in stronger relief, greyhounds, and other dogs of different sorts, such as are to be seen in the delightful woods where the fountain rises. I drew the whole plan in an oblong form, and at each corner I designed a victory in basso relievo, holding little torches in their hands, as they are represented by the ancients. On the top I placed the figure of a salamander, the king's own emblem, with several other ornaments, pleasing to the eye, and adapted to the nature of the work, which was of the Ionic order.

The sight of this model raised the king's spirits, and diverted him from that disagreeable conversation in which he had been engaged above two hours. Finding him in this good humour, I shewed him two other models, which he little expected, for he imagined he had seen ingenuity enough in the first. This model was above two cubits in size ; it represented a fountain in the form of a compleat square, with fine steps round it, which intersected each other ; a thing almost unexampled in any country whatever. In the midst of this fountain I placed a solid piece, which rose a little above its brim, and upon it I placed a naked figure, of a most graceful shape ; this had a broken lance in its right hand,

raised aloft in the air, and the left it kept upon the handle of a scymitar, the form of which was exceedingly beautiful ; it rested upon the left foot, and held the right upon the crest of a helmet, the workmanship of which was the richest and most elegant that could be conceived : at the four sides of the fountain, I had designed a high raised figure, seated, with many pretty devices and ornaments to each. The king began to interrogate me about the fancy of this elegant work, telling me, that he had himself understood my whole plan of the gate, without asking a single question ; but as for my present design, tho' it appeared to him exceedingly beautiful, he could not so much as from a conjecture concerning its meaning : he added, that he was very sure I had not done like some foolish artists, who tho' they produced works which had some beauty and elegance in them, were, notwithstanding, void of signification. As I had had the good luck to please his majesty by my performance, I prepared to give him a second pleasure by my explanation of it, which was couched in the following words : May it please your majesty, this little work was designed in small measure, but when it is carried into execution, there would be the same symmetry and exactness in great, as in miniature. The figure in the middle is of fifty-four feet. When I spoke thus the king appeared to be greatly surprised. Next continued I, is represented the god Mars ; those other four figures are made for the virtues, in which your majesty so highly delights, and which you so much favour. The figure upon the right hand is the emblem of science ; observe its symbol, that denotes philosophy, with all its train of attendant virtues ; that other signifies the art of designing, which comprizes sculpture, painting, and architec-

ture. The next figure represents music, a proper companion for all the other sciences. That there which appears so kind and courteous, is intended for liberality, since without her aid none of those virtues or talents given us by the Almighty, can ever become conspicuous. The great statute in the middle represents your majesty, who are the Mars of this age, the only valiant prince in the world, a prince who exerts that valour in supporting and asserting the glory of his crown. Scarce had he the patience to hear me out, when he exclaimed aloud, I have at last found a man after my own heart. He immediately sent for his treasurer, and ordered him to supply me with whatever I required, however great the expence. He then clapped me on the shoulder, and said to me in French, *mon ami*, my friend, I do not know which pleasure is the greatest, that of a prince who meets with a man after his own heart, or that of the artist who finds a prince that gives him all the encouragement necessary to carry his great and sublime ideas into execution. I made answer, that if I was the artist meant by his majesty, the happiness was entirely on my side. He answered laughing; let us then reckon it equal on both sides.

I left the monarch in high spirits, and returned to my work. It happened unluckily for me, that I had not been apprized to act the same farce with Madame D'Estampes, who having in the evening heard all that passed from the king himself, conceived so deep a resentment at the neglect, that she said with the utmost indignation, if Benvenuto had shewed me his fine works, I should have had reason to remember him at the proper time. The king endeavoured to excuse me, but without success. Having received this information about a fortnight

after, when the court, after making a tour to Normandy, was returned to St. Germain en Laye, I took with me the fine piece of plate which I had wrought at the desire of Madame D'Estampes herself, in hopes that by making her a present of it, I might recover her good graces: accordingly I carried it to her, and having mentioned my intention to her waiting woman, shewed her the cup which I proposed presenting to her lady; she received me in the kindest manner imaginable, and said, she would just speak a word to Madame D'Estampes, who was not yet dressed; but that as soon as ever she had apprised her of my coming, she would introduce me. Upon acquainting her lady with my arrival, and the present I had brought, the latter answered in a passion, tell him to wait. Having heard this, I armed myself with patience, and continued in suspense till she was going to dinner; perceiving that it grew late, hunger provoked me to such a degree, that, unable to resist its cravings any longer, I gave the lady a hearty curse, and going directly to the cardinal of Lorraine, made him a present of the cup, begging he would stand my friend with the king, and prevent me from being deprived of his good graces. He made answer, that I did not want a friend at court, and in case I did, he would have espoused my cause without being solicited: then calling to his steward, he whispered something in his ear. The steward having waited, till I had quitted the cardinal's presence, said to me, Benvenuto, come this way and I will treat you with a bottle of good wine. As I was not well aware of his meaning, I made answer, for God's sake, good Mr. Steward, do but give me a single glass of wine and a bit of bread, for I am ready to sink for want of sustenance, I had waited fasting



since the morning early at Madame D'Estampes's door, with an intention to make her a present of that fine gilt cup; and when I sent her word that I was there, she ordered me to be told to wait: at present hunger attacks me, and I find my powers begin to fail; so as it was God's will, I have bestowed my property and my work on one that deserved it much better, and all I desire of you is to give me something to eat; as I am of a temper rather impatient and hunger pinches me to such a degree that I am almost ready to faint. Whilst I uttered these words with great difficulty, a servant brought in some excellent wine and other delicacies for a collation; I refreshed myself very well, and having recruited my spirits thoroughly, my peevishness and impatience subsided. The worthy steward having put into my hands a hundred gold crowns, I declined accepting them on any account; upon this he went and told the cardinal, who reprimanded him very severely, and commanded him to force them upon me, or not appear again in his presence. The steward came back highly offended, declaring that the cardinal had never rated him so before; he then endeavoured to persuade me to accept of his master's bounty; and upon my making some resistance, he said in a passion, that he would compel me to take the money. I at length accepted it, and proposed going to return the cardinal thanks; but he gave me to understand by one of his secretaries, that whenever he had it in his power to befriend me, he should do it with pleasure. I returned to Paris the same evening: the king was informed of all that had passed, and Madame D'Estampes was very much rallied upon the occasion; but this only increased her resentment against me, whence my



life was afterwards in danger, as the reader, shall be informed in due time.

I should however first take notice of my having acquired the friendship of one the most learned, and most amiable acquaintances that I ever had in my life: this was Signor Guido Guigi, an excellent physician, and eminent citizen of Florence: on account of the calamities in which adverse fortune had involved me, I deferred speaking of him before; but I thought that neglect excusable, as he was always next my heart. Having afterwards taken it into consideration, that my life was never agreeable without him amidst that of my greatest crosses, that as he constantly comforted and assisted me, I may in this narrative dwell upon the remembrance of the happiness I enjoyed in his friendship. Signor Guido Guidi came to Paris while I resided in that capital: upon our first acquaintance, I conducted him to my castle, and assigned him an apartment in it, so that we enjoyed each other's company several years. Thither also came the bishop of Pavia, Monsignor de Rossi, brother to the count of St. Secondo. I made this prelate leave his inn, and took him with me to my castle, where I gave him an apartment, in which he was handsomely accommodated, with all his retinue, during several months. Upon another occasion I accommodated Signor Luigi Alamanni and his sons for some months, and the Almighty was so favourable to me as to put it into my power to serve some other persons of distinction and men of genius. I enjoyed the friendship of Signor Guido as many years as I resided at the castle, and we often boasted to each other, that we had acquired some improvement in our respective professions, at the expence of the great and munificent king, who had invited us

to his capital. I can say with truth, that if I have any reputation, or have ever produced works deserving of notice, it was owing to the encouragement of that generous monarch. I therefore resume the thread of my narrative concerning him, and the great works in which I was employed by his majesty. My castle had a tennis-court, from which I derived great benefit; at the same time that I used it for exercise, there were many habitations in it occupied by several men of different trades, amongst whom there was an excellent printer: almost his whole shop was within the precincts of my castle, and it was he that first printed the excellent medical treatise published by Signor Guido. As I had occasion for the shop I made him quit it, but not without some difficulty. There was likewise in the same place a person who made gunpowder; I wanted the habitation he occupied, for some of my German artists, but the powder-maker would on no account dislodge, tho' I several times civilly desired him to let me have the apartment, which was really necessary for some of my men, employed in the king's service. The more humble my remonstrances, the more insolently the brute answered me; at last I allowed him three days to remove; but he laughed, and told me that he would begin to think of it in about three years. I did not know at first that this fellow was a domestic of Madame D'Estampes; and if it had not been that the above affair between that lady and myself had made me particularly cautious, I should instantly have dislodged him; but I thought it advisable to have patience for the three days. These being expired, I took with me several armed men, Germans, Italians, and French, as likewise some menial servants, who in a short time cleared the

house and threw all he had in it into the streets. I treated him with this particular rigour, because he had told me, that he did not think any Italian had the courage to move the least thing belonging to him out of its place. In consequence of his having made such a boast, I behaved to him in that manner; and then said to him, I am the least of all the Italians, but I have done nothing to you yet, in comparison of what I find myself disposed to do, and what I certainly shall perform, if you speak another word; with many more angry and menacing expressions. The man in the utmost terror and astonishment, gathered up his effects the best he could, and ran to Madame D'Estampes, to whom he gave a most terrible account of the whole transaction. That grand enemy of mine, an enemy the more dangerous, in proportion to her greater influence and credit, represented the affair in the worst light to his majesty. The monarch, as I have been informed flew into a violent passion, and was upon the point of giving very severe orders against me; but as his son Henry the Dauphin, now king of France, had received many affronts from that presumptuous lady, which had been also the case of the queen of Navarre, sister to king Francis, they both espoused my cause so warmly, that the king turned the whole affair into ridicule; so that, with the assistance of the Almighty, I had a fair escape at this critical juncture.

## CHAPTER VII.

*Madame D'Estampes encourages Primatticcio otherwise called Bologna the painter, to torment and rival the author—He is entangled in a troublesome law suit by a person whom he had turned out of his apartments at Piccol Nello—Description of the French court of justice—The author finding himself very much persecuted and distressed by the chicanery and delays of the law, puts an end to the suit by his sword, which greatly intimidates his adversaries—Account of his four men servants, and his maid Caharine—One of the four, a hypocritical pretender to devotion, betrays his Master—He is caught by Cellini, who turns Catharine and her mother out of doors.*

AFTER I had thus got rid of my Frenchman, I found myself obliged to proceed in the same manner with another tradesman, but did not demolish the house, I only caused the goods to be thrown out of the window. This provoked Madame D'Estampes so highly, that she said to the king, I believe this devil of a fellow will one day ransack the city of Paris. The king answered in a passion that I did very right in ridding myself of a rabble, which would have prevented me from executing his or-

ders. The fury of this cruel woman rising every day to a higher pitch, she sent for a certain painter, who lived occasionally at Fontainebleau, the king's place of residence; this painter, was an Italian and a native of Bologna, by which name he was universally known, but his real name was Francis Primaticcio. Madame D'Estampes bid him apply to the king for the work which he resolved to put into my hands, and said she would second him to the utmost of her power: this was agreed upon between them. Bologna was highly rejoiced, looking upon himself as sure of success, though the business was quite out of the sphere of his profession. But as he was master of the art of designing, and had agreed with certain workmen who had learned their business under Rosso, our celebrated painter of Florence, who must be acknowledged to have been a man of great genius; and as Bologna himself in whatever he has produced of any degree of merit, had followed the excellent manner of that Rosso, who was at this time no more; these very plausible reasons had such weight, being backed by Madame D'Estampes, and conspiring with the continual dining in the king's ears day and night, either by Bologna or the lady, that this great prince at last began to listen to their suggestions. They said to him, how is it possible that your sacred majesty can employ Benvenuto to make you twelve statues of silver, when he has not yet finished one? If you engage him in so great an undertaking, you must resolve to give up the other plans which you are so much bent upon; because a hundred men of first-rate talents, would be unable to finish all the great works which this one enterprising genius has taken in hand. It is obvious at the same time, that he exerts himself too much, and is indefatigable in his business, which



may very probably be the cause of your losing both him and the works he is employed in. These and many other arguments of the like sort, by being argued at a proper time, produced their effect upon the mind of the king, so that he complied with their desires ; and yet he had not hitherto seen any designs or models by the said Bologna.

Just at this very juncture the second person whom I had driven out of the precincts of my castle, had commenced a law suit against me at Paris, affirming that I had robbed him of several of his effects at the time that I had made him dislodge : this suit occasioned me a great deal of trouble, and took up so much of my time, that I was frequently upon the point of forming a desperate resolution to quit the kingdom. It is customary in France to make the most of a suit when they commence with a foreigner, or with any other person who is not used to law-transactions ; as soon as they have any advantage in the process, they find means to sell it to certain persons, who make a trade of buying lawsuits.— There is another villainous practice which is general with the Normans, I mean that of bearing false witness, so that those who purchase the suit, immediately instruct five or six of these witnesses, as there happens to be occasion : by such means, if their adversary cannot produce an equal number to contradict and destroy their evidence, and happens to be ignorant of the customs of the country, he is sure to have a decree given against him. Both these accidents having happened to me ; I thought the proceeding highly dishonourable : I therefore made my appearance in the great hall of the Palais at Paris, in order to plead my own cause ; where I saw the king's lieutenant for civil affairs, seated upon a grand tribunal. This man was tall,



corpulent, and had a most austere countenance : on one side he was surrounded with a multitude of people ; and on the other with numbers of attornies and counsellors, all ranged in order upon the right and left ; others came one by one, and severally opened their causes before the judge. I observed that the counsellors who stood on one side, sometimes spoke all together. To my great surprise this extraordinary magistrate, with the true countenance of a Pluto, seemed by his attitude to listen now to one, now to another, and constantly answered with the utmost propriety : as I always took great pleasure in seeing and contemplating the efforts of genius, of what nature soever, this appeared to me so wonderful, that I would not have missed seeing it for any consideration.— As the hall was of a prodigious extent, and filled with a great multitude of persons, particular care was taken that none should enter, but such as came about business ; so the door was kept locked, and the avenues were guarded by door-keepers : these men, in opposing those who were forcing in, made sometimes such a noise, that the judge reprimanded them very severely. I stooped down several times to observe what passed ; the words which I heard the judge utter, upon seeing two gentlemen who wanted to hear the trial, and whom the porter was endeavoring to keep out, were these, be quiet, be quiet, Satan, get hence, and leave off disturbing us : the terms in French were, *paix, paix, Satan, allez, paix*. As I had by this time thoroughly learned the French language, upon hearing these words I recollected what Dante said, when he with his master Virgil, entered the gates of hell ; for Dante and Giotto the painter were together in France, and visited Paris with particular attention, where the court of justice may be considered as hell. Hence it is that Dante,

who was likewise perfect master of the French, made use of that expression; and I have often been surprised, that it was never understood in that sense; so that I cannot help thinking, that the commentators on this author have often made him say things which he never so much as dreamed of.

To return to my suit; finding that there was no redress to be expected from the law, I had recourse to a long sword, which I had by me, for I was always particularly careful, to be provided with good arms; the first that I attacked was the person who commenced that unjust and vexatious suit; and one day I gave him so many wounds upon the legs and arms, taking care however not to kill him, that I deprived him of the use of both his legs. I then fell upon the other who had bought the cause, and treated him in such a manner, as quickly caused a stop to be put to the proceedings; for this and every other success, I returned thanks to the Supreme Being, and began to conceive hopes that I should be for some time unmolested. I earnestly entreated my young journeymen, especially, the Italians; to be attentive to their business, and to work hard for a time, till I could finish the works I had undertaken; for I proposed to return to Italy, as soon as ever they were completed, not being able any longer to bear the villainy of the French; at the same time seriously considering that if the monarch should once happen to be angry with me, I might probably meet with severe treatment for having revenged myself in the manner I had done. These Italian journeymen were as follow: the first and most in my favor was Ascanio, born in the kingdom of Naples, at a place called Tagliacozzo: the second was Paolo Romano, a person of mean birth, who did not so much as know his own father; these

two I had brought from Rome, were they had lived with me; the third was likewise a Roman, who came from Italy, on purpose to enter into my service; his name was also Paoli, and he was son to a poor Roman gentleman of the Macherani family; this young man had made but little proficiency in the business, but he was brave, and an excellent swordsman; the fourth journeyman, was a native of Ferrara, whose name was Bartholomew Chioccia; the fifth was a Florentine, named Paolo Micceri; who had a brother, surnamed Gatta, a very able clerk, but guilty of extravagance, when he managed the business for Tommaso Guadagni, a rich merchant; he afterwards kept my books, which contained my accounts with his most Christian majesty, and others, by whom I was employed. Paolo Micceri having learned his brother's method of book-keeping, continued to follow it, and I allowed him a good salary; he appeared to me to be a very pious youth, and discovered a great turn to devotion, sometimes singing psalms, sometimes telling his beads, so that I conceived great hopes from such an appearance of virtue. I therefore called him aside, and spoke to him thus; my dear friend Paolo, you see how happily you are settled with me, and may remember you were before out of business; you are a Florentine, which makes me confide in you: and what gives me high satisfaction, is to see you so devout, and so regular in all acts of religion. I therefore make it my request to you, that you would give your attention to two things, in which I am in a particular manner concerned, one is that you would carefully watch over my property, and be always upon your guard to prevent any body from meddling with it, as likewise that you avoid touching it yourself. At the same time you see the poor girl Catharine, whom

I keep in the house chiefly on account of my business, and without whom it would be impossible for me to conduct it ; and as I am not free from human frailties, I am personally attached to her, yet she may, very possibly, some time or other, wrong my love with some other person, an injury which I should never be able to forgive. If any person in this house were to be guilty of such an action, I verily believe I should be death of both him and her ; therefore, my dear friend, I beg you will assist me ; and if any thing of the kind happens, immediately give me notice, for I mean at once to wreak my vengeance upon her and her mother, and upon the person that attempts the outrage ; let me entreat you then to keep a good look out. The villain there-upon made the sign of the cross, and exclaimed ; O blessed Jesus ! God forbid that ever I should think of such a thing ; first I am not at all given to such vile practices ; and then can I be ignorant of my obligations to you ? Hearing him utter these words with the simple, unaffected gestures of one that spoke as he thought, in short, of one that had a real affection for me ; I was credulous enough to think he expressed his real sentiments. Soon after this discourse, came a holiday, when Signor Mattio del Nasaro, who was also an Italian, in the king's service, and a very able man in our business, invited me with my young fellows to an entertainment in his garden ; I proposed to go thither, and desired Paolo to join us, and take share of the diversions, as I thought the troublesome affair of the law-suit was pretty well over. The young man made answer, that it would be very wrong to leave the house without any body to look after it ; do but consider, said he, how much gold, silver, and jewels you

have here ; in a city which swarms with thieves, we should be watchful both night and day ; whilst I guard the house, I will say my prayers ; so go, take your recreations ; without being under any apprehensions ; the next time the office must be done by another. Thus in a perfect composure of mind, I set out with Paolo, Ascanio, and Chioccia ; we went together to the garden to solace ourselves, and there passed a great part of the day very merrily.

When evening began to approach, I grew uneasy, and could not help thinking of the words of my hypocritical rogue of a servant, and the air of counterfeit integrity with which he uttered them. I mounted on horseback, and with two of my young fellows returned to the castle, where I was very near surprising Paolo and Catherine : no sooner was I arrived, but the old mother cried out with a loud voice, Paolo, Catherine, your master is come back. They appeared quite terrified, and seemed neither to know what they were saying, or where they were going ; from whence I concluded that they were guilty. Anger having now quite deprived me of my reason, I laid hand to my sword, with a resolution to destroy them both : one betook herself to flight ; the other fell upon his knees and implored compassion. I wanted to dispatch the man first, but not being able to come up with him immediately, I in the mean time reflected seriously, and thinking better of what I was about, concluded that it would be most adviseable to turn them both off ; because as I had lately done so many things that exposed me to censure, my life would certainly have been in danger had I added this to the rest. I said there-



fore to Paolo, villain, had I seen what I suspect, I should have pierced your body ten times with this sword ; begone from my house directly and let me have no more of your hypocritical canting : I then turned the mother and daughter out of doors with many kicks and blows.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*Open rupture between Cellini and Bologna the painter, the latter having at the instigation of Madame D'Estampes, undertaken to execute some of the designs of the former—Bologna is intimidated by the author's menaces, and gives up the point—Cellini discovers an intrigue between another of his servants, Paolo Micceri and Catharine, which he revenges in an extraordinary manner—He waits upon his majesty, with a salt-cellar of the most exquisite workmanship, of which he gives a particular description—He takes another girl into his service, to whom he gives the nick-name of Scozzone—The king again visits the author, and finding the silver statues in great forwardness, orders him a considerable sum of money, of which he is deprived as before by the cardinal of Ferrara—His majesty discovering how the author had been wronged, orders his minister to give him the first abbey that becomes vacant.*

WHEN once adverse fortune, or the influence of our ill stars, if that expression seems more proper, begin to persecute a man, is is never at a loss for means to distress him. When I thought I had got clear of one dangerous affair, and flattered myself that my evil genius would leave me at rest for a while; I was resolved again in most perplexing difficulties, and in the space of a few days two acci-

dents befel me, by both of which I was in imminent danger of my life. This affair happened as follows: I was obliged to go to Fontainebleau, to wait upon the king, who had written me a letter, desiring me to undertake to stamp the coins for his whole kingdom; in the letter he had inclosed some little designs, the better to explain his mind, but at the same time left me at liberty to follow the dictates of my genius.

In compliance with his majesty's orders, I had drawn new designs, in my own taste, and with the utmost elegance of art. Upon my arrival at Fontainebleau, one of the king's treasurers, who had received orders to provide me with whatever I wanted, and whose name was Mons. de la Fe, said to me: Benvenuto, Bologna the painter has been ordered by the king to make your Colossal statue; and all the other great works which has been put into your hands, his majesty has now taken from you, and given to him: we were all very sorry for it, and think that this countryman of yours has acted very presumptuously, and behaved extremely ill to you; for you had been entrusted with the works on account of the excellence of your models, and your masterly performances; but this man has supplanted you, merely through the interest of Madame D'Estamps. It is now several months since he undertook these works, and he has not yet so much as begun a stroke. Hearing this, I exclaimed with surprise, How is it possible I should never have heard a word of all this? He answered me, that Bologna had kept the affair as secret as possible, and obtained his request with the utmost difficulty, the king being very unwilling to grant it; but that Madame D'Estampes had been so earnest in her solicitations, as to extort, in some measure, his com-

pliance. Finding myself so cruelly wronged, so unjustly treated, and deprived of a work which was due to me in consideration of the pains I had taken, I resolved to perform some signal feat of arms, and went with the most eager haste in quest of Bologna. I found him in his chamber, quite absorbed in study. He bid me come in, and with some awkward civilities, asked me what was the best news, and what had brought me thither? I answered, an affair of the last importance. He thereupon ordered his servants to bring some wine, and said, before we talk about business, we must drink together, for that is the custom here in France. I must inform you, replied I, Signor Francesco, that there is no occasion for the conversation, which is to pass between us, to be ushered in with drinking; that perhaps may come afterwards. I then continued thus: All those who profess themselves to be men of worth and virtue, shew by their actions that they are such, and when they behave otherwise, they can no longer be considered in that light. I am sensible that you were not ignorant of the king's having employed me to make the Collossus, which has been talked of these eighteen months, and neither you nor any body else said any thing about it during that time: I had by my labours made myself known to that great prince, who was so pleased with my models, as to commit this grand undertaking to me, and for many months I heard nothing of his having a different intention: it was not till this morning that I heard it was given to you, and that you had basely undermined me, though I was entitled to the work by my elegant performances, and you have no other claim but mere boasting and vanity. My friend Benvenuto, answered Bologna, every man endeavours to do the best he

can for himself, and if it be the king's pleasure, what objection can you make? Say what you will, you will only loose your labour in talking against the grant, it has been made to me, and cannot be disputed: now speak as much as you please, and I will listen to you in my turn. I thereupon replied to him thus: I have a great deal to say to you, Signor Francesco, and could by many strong and convincing arguments make you confess that such methods of acting and reasoning as yours, are not customary with rational beings; but I will be brief and come to the point: listen attentively, for what I am going to say is of great consequence. He was ready to rise from his seat, seeing that I changed colour, and discovered great symptoms of emotion; but I told him it was not yet time for him to stir, and bid him sit still, and attend to what I had to say. I then proceeded thus: Signor Francisco, you know very well that the work was at first put into my hands, and that according to the practice of the world, it was no longer a proper time for any other person to apply for it. I now declare to you, that I am willing you should make a model, and I will made a new one; we then will carry them both to our great monarch, and he who upon that occasion acquits himself best, shall be looked upon as entitled to the honour of making the Colossus: if it should happen to be your lot, I will lay aside all resentment of the injury you have done me, and bless your hands as more worthy than mine of so great an honour. Let us therefore make this agreement, and we shall be friends, otherwise we must be enemies; and God who always assists the just cause, and I his instrument, will find means to convince you of your error. Signor Francesco made answer, the work is mine, and since it has been giv-



en me, I do not choose to run any farther risk. To this I replied, Signor Francesco, since you will not accept of the favourable expedient, which is both just and reasonable, I will propose another to you, which will resemble your own proceeding, in its harshness and deformity. I must tell you plainly, that if ever I hear you mention a word of this work of mine, I will kill you as I would a mad dog: and as we are now neither in Rome, Florence, Naples, nor Bologna, and the manner of living in this country is quite different, if I ever hear you drop but a word about it to the king, I will instantly put you to death without mercy: think therefore seriously, which proposal you choose to accept, the first or the last; by one you may live, by the other there must be an end of your existence. The man was at a loss what to say, or how to act, and I was almost preparing to put my design instantly in execution, rather than defer it to some other occasion. Bologna said nothing farther than this, So long as I behave like a man of honour and principle, I shall be free from all fear and apprehensions. To this I replied, What you say is very just, but when you act in a contrary manner, you have reason to be afraid; mind what I say. I thereupon instantly left him, to wait on the king, and had a long conference with his majesty, concerning the coins; in which we could not agree; for his privy-council being there present persuaded him that money should still be coined in the same manner as it always had been before that time in France. I answered, that his majesty had invited me from Italy to work for him, so as to deserve approbation; and even if he should give me contrary directions, and command me to work ill, I could never find in my heart to obey him.

Farther conversation upon the subject was deferred to another opportunity, and I returned to Paris.

I had no sooner dismounted from my horse, but one of those worthy persons who delight in making mischief, came to tell me that Paolo Micceri had taken a house for Catherine and her mother, and that he was there at every turn ; that when the fellow spoke of me, he constantly said in a bantering stile : Benvenuto trusted his lettuce to the care of geese, and thought they would not devour it ; now he goes about hectoring and bullying, and thinks I am afraid of him ; I wear this sword and dagger to let him know I can fight as well as he, that I am a Florentine as well as he, and of the family of the Micceri, who are much better men than the Cellini. The scoundrel who brought me this intelligence, delivered it in such a manner that I felt my fever return ; I call it a fever in earnest, not by way of comparison, for the agitation I felt was equal to the rage of that disorder, and I should have died of it, had I not resolved to take the best measures I could to assuage the torment it gave me. I desired my journeyman of Ferrara, whose name was Chioccia, to go with me ; at the same time I ordered my servant to follow with my horse. When I came to the house of that villain, I found the door half open, and entering abruptly, saw him with his sword and dagger at his side, seated upon a great chest, with his arm about Catherine's neck : scarce was I got in, when I perceived that he had been talking to her mother about my adventures : whereupon clapping my hand to my sword, I held the point of it to his throat, and without giving him time to reflect that he had a sword himself, I cried out, vile coward, recommend your soul to God, for this moment you die. He without once stirring, called aloud three times, O mam-

ma, assist me. Though I was resolved at all hazards, to demolish him, when I heard him use this foolish expression, my passion half subsided. In the mean time I had given orders to Chioccia not to let either Catharine or her mother escape, being resolved to wreck my vengeance on those two prostitutes as well as on Paolo. Continuing to hold the point of my sword at his throat, I pricked him with it a little, and spoke to him in the most thundering tone ; but observing that he made no sort of defence, I did not know what to do ; so thinking my menaces thrown away, I took it into my head to make him marry the girl, with an intention of taking my revenge afterwards. Having formed this resolution, I said to him, coward, take off that ring, and espouse Catherine directly, that I may afterwards treat you according to your deserts. The other made answer : spare my life, and I will do whatever you desire of me. Then, said I, put the ring upon Catherine's finger ; at the same time I turned the point of my sword aside from his throat, as well to enable him to do it, as to dissipate his apprehensions. When he had put the ring upon her finger, I farther added, this ceremony is not sufficient nor am I satisfied with it ; I insist upon two notaries being sent for, and the affair being transacted and stipulated by contract. I thereupon bid Chioccia go for the notaries : then turning about to Catherine and her mother, I said to them in French ; the notaries and the witnesses will be here presently ; the first of you that offers to say a word of what has passed on the occasion, I will put to death ; nay I will destroy you all three ; therefore be upon your guard, and don't open your lips about it. To Paolo I addressed myself in Italian and said, if you make the least objection to any thing I propose, I

will that instant rip open your body. All the answer he made me was ; provided you do not deprive me of my life, I will do whatever you order me, and make no objection. The notaries and the witnesses came, an authentic and complete contract was drawn up, and all the rage and fury into which I had been thrown by the scoundrel, who had brought me the first intelligence, entirely subsided. I paid the notaries and went about my business.

The next day Bologna the painter came to Paris on my account, and sent Mattio del Nasaro for me ; I waited upon him accordingly, when he begged I would consider him in the light of a brother, and declared he would not mention a word concerning the great work to the king, as he was sensible that I must be in the right.

If I were not to acknowledge myself to have done wrong in some of these adventures, those in which I am sure I did right, would not be believed. I therefore confess I did wrong in taking such revenge on Paolo Micceri : for I had not only made him marry that thorough paced wanton, but to indulge my vindictive spirit, I afterwards sent for her, drew her likeness, then treated her to a collation, and made her stay with me that night, in order to mortify that wretch Paolo : farther, to sate my revenge upon her, I gave her several kicks and cuffs, which set her a crying, so that she declared she would never more come near me. The next morning however I heard a knocking at my door, and upon opening it, Catherine said to me with great cheerfulness ; I am come to breakfast with you, Sir : I bid her come in, and after taking her likeness again completed my revenge upon Paolo ; this happened for several days successively. Whilst I was going on with this work, I set apart certain hours of the

day to continue the salt-cellar, about which several hands had been employed, for I could not otherwise conveniently work upon the statue of Jupiter. About the time that I had compleatly finished it, the king was returned to Paris: I paid him a visit, carrying the salt-cellar with me, which, as I have observed above, was of an oval figure, and in size about two thirds of a cubit, being entirely of gold, and admirably engraved by the chissel. Agreeably to the account already given of the model, I had represented the sea and the earth both in a sitting posture, the legs of one placed between those of the other, as certain arms of the sea enter the land, and certain necks of land jut out into the sea; the manner in which I designed them was as follows. I put a trident into the right hand of the figure that represented the sea, and in the left hand a bark of exquisite workmanship, which was to hold the salt: under this figure were its four horses, the form of which in the breast and fore feet resembled that of a horse, and all the hind part from the middle that of a fish; the fish's tails were entwined with each other in a manner very pleasing to the eye, and the whole group was placed in a striking attitude. This figure was surrounded by a variety of fishes of different species, and other sea-animals. The undulation of the water was properly exhibited, and likewise enamelled with its true colours. The earth I represented by a beautiful female figure holding a cornucopia in her hand, entirely naked, like the other male figure; in her left hand she held a little temple, the architecture of the Ionic order, and the workmanship very nice, this was intended to put the pepper in. Under this female figure I exhibited most of the finest animals, which the earth produces; and the rocks I partly enamelled, and partly left in gold. I then fixed the work on a basis of black ebony of



a proper thickness ; and there I placed four golden figures of more than half relievo ; these were intended to represent night and day, and there was one likewise for the morning. There were also four other figures of the four principal winds, the workmanship and enamel of which were elegant to the last degree. When I shewed the king this piece of work, he burst into an exclamation of surprise, and could never sufficiently admire it ; he then bid me carry it home, telling he would soon let me know what to do with it. Having taken it back, I immediately invited several of my most intimate friends to dinner, and put the salt-cellar upon the table, thus we were the first to make use of it, and spent the day very chearfully. After this I continued to work upon the statue of Jupiter, and the great silver vase already mentioned, on which were engraved several pretty mottos, with a variety of different figures.

About this time Bologna the painter told the king, that it would be proper for his majesty to send him to Rome, and give him letters of recommendation, that he might take designs of the first-rate antiquities of that city, the Laocoon, the Cleopatra, the Venus, the Commodus, the Apollo ; which are indeed the finest things in Rome. He at the same time told the monarch that his majesty by seeing those admirable master-pieces, would be able to form a judgment of the art of drawing ; for all the works of modern artists that had been shewn him, were infinitely inferior to the masterly performances of the ancients. The king approved of his proposal, and gave him all the encouragement he desired. So the fool went off in this manner, and not having the spirit to rival me, had recourse to this artifice worthy of a Lombard, pretending to imitate the

works of the ancient in order to depreciate mine ; but though he took excellent drawings of them, his success proved quite the reverse of what he had flattered himself it would, as we shall inform the reader in due time.

Having entirely discontinued my connexion with Catharine, and the poor unfortunate young man, who had conspired with her to wrong me, being gone from Paris, I intended to have my ornament for Fontainebleau, which was of bronze, properly cleaned, as likewise to get the two figures of Victory, which extended from the side angels to the middle circle of the gate, furbished up : for this purpose I took into my house a poor girl about fifteen years of age ; she was extremely well shaped, and of a complexion rather swarthy ; and she was somewhat rustic, spoke little, walked fast, and had a sort of wildness in her eyes, I gave her the name of Scoz-zona : but her own name was Jane. With the assistance of this servant-maid, I completely finished my Fontainebleau, and the two Victories intended for ornaments to the gate.

I continued my work with all possible expedition, and by this time they were in great forwardness ; the Jupiter was as good as finished, so was the vase, and the gate began to display its beauties. The king came to Paris and immediately repaired to my house, where my works were in such forwardness that they gave great satisfaction to the eye ; the monarch was as much pleased with them, as an artist could wish, who had bestowed great pains on his productions. He recollected of himself that the cardinal of Ferrara had given me none of the money that he had promised me ; so talking in a low voice to his admiral, he said the cardinal had done very wrong in not paying me ; but that he himself would see justice

done me ; for he perceived that I was a man of few words, and would leave the kingdom, if I were not satisfied. Without adding a word more they withdrew, and the king after dinner bid the cardinal tell the treasurer to pay me with all possible expedition, seven thousand gold crowns at three or four disbursements, according as he found it convenient, and not fail at his peril. He then concluded with these words, I have put Benvenuto under your care, but you have quite forgot him. The cardinal assured the king, that he would punctually obey his orders, but the natural malignity of his temper made him stay till the monarch's fit of generosity and good nature was over. In the mean time France was threatened more and more with the calamities of war, and the emperor with a numerous army seemed to be upon the point of marching to Paris. The cardinal perceiving that money was very scarce in the kingdom, took occasion one day to speak of me to the king in these terms : I thought it best not to give Benvenuto the money your majesty ordered him, and one of my reasons was, that you now stand in need of it yourself ; the other, that so generous a present would have deprived us of him the sooner, for if once he had found himself rich, he would have purchased an estate in Italy, and when the whim took him would certainly have left you : so I have considered with myself that it is most advisable, your majesty should assign him some settlement in your own dominions, If you desire that he should continue any considerable time in your service. The king seemed to approve of what was said ; however, with a greatness of soul worthy of such a monarch, he took it into consideration that the cardinal had acted as he had done, rather to gratify his own temper, than because he had so long before had the sa-

gacity to foresee the distressed state of so great a kingdom. Thus though the king appeared to assent outwardly to the reasons assigned by the cardinal, his private sentiments were very different: for he soon returned to Paris, and the day after his arrival, came of his own accord to my house, when I conducted him through several apartments, in which there was a variety of works of different sorts. Beginning with those of least value, I shewed him several pieces of bronze, which surpassed any thing of the kind he had ever beheld. I then led him to the silver Jupiter, and he was pleased to find it almost finished, with all its beautiful ornaments. This indeed he admired much more than any other man would have done, on account of an unlucky accident which had happened to him a few years before, when the emperor intending an expedition against the town of Tunis, passed through Paris with the consent of the French monarch. Frances being desirous of making Charles a present worthy of so great an emperor, caused a silver Hercules to be cast for that purpose, exactly of the same size with my Jupiter. This Hercules was a most ordinary piece of work, and when the king found fault with it, the artist whom he had employed, and who pretended to be the greatest masters in the whole world, maintained that nothing more compleat could be made of silver, insisting upon two thousand ducats for their bungling piece of work. For this reason, when his majesty saw my performance, he was surprised at the admirable polish of it, which he could never have conceived. To such a degree was he pleased with my Jupiter, that he valued it at two thousand crowns, and said: those bungling artists received no recompence from me; for this I will give two thousand crowns, and it is well worth the

money. I then carried his majesty to see some other performances, both in silver and gold, and many other models of new works; at last when he was upon the point of departing, I conducted him through the castle-garden, where I shewed him my statue of the great giant; at the same time giving his majesty to understand, that nothing larger could be made in silver. The king discovered the greatest astonishment imaginable, and turning about, spoke thus to the admiral, who was Mons. D'Annebaut: since the cardinal has not yet supplied this man with money, and the latter is so backward to ask it, I must without more delay take care to provide for him myself; for when artists are two modest to ask any recompence, their works seem sufficiently to claim it: therefore give him the first abbey that become vacant, the revenue of which amount to two thousand crowns a year, and in case you cannot let him have it in one benefice, give it him in two or three; it will be the same thing to him. I was present, heard all that was said, and immediately returned thanks to his majesty, as if I had the abbey already in my possession; telling him, that I intended when that work was finished, to serve his majesty without any reward, salary, or recompence for my labour, till old age should render me incapable of working, when I might be allowed to retire to necessary repose, happy in the remembrance of having served so great a monarch. To this the king with great alacrity answered: so be it; and left me in high spirits.



## CHAPTER IX.

*Madame D'Estampes with a view of farther persecuting the author, obtains leave from the king for a perfumer to take possession of a tennis court within his inclosure—The perfumer is opposed by Cellini, notwithstanding the king's grant, and obliged at length to quit the premises—The author triumphs on meeting with the king's approbation—He sets out for Fontainebleau with the silver statue of Jupiter—Bologna the painter upon his return from Rome, whither he went to make drawings of some antique statutes, endeavours to traduce the author, and diminish the praise which he received on account of his admirable performances—Madame D'Estampes's partial behaviour to Bologna the painter—Cellini's spirited resentment—The king's gracious and generous behaviour to the author—Ridiculous adventure of Ascanio.*

MADAME D'Estampes having heard of my encouragement, was more provoked against me than ever, and said: I govern the whole kingdom; and yet such an insignificant fellow as this sets my power at defiance; in a word, she left no stone unturned to effect my destruction. A person who was a great distiller happening to fall in her way, gave her certain odoriferous waters of an extraordinary nature

for the skin, which had never been used in France before that time: this man she introduced to the king, to whom he shewed certain operations in distilling, with which his majesty was highly delighted. At the time of these amusements she made the distiller apply to the king for a tennis court at my castle, with certain little apartments belonging to it, of which he said, I made no use. The king, who knew from whom this application took its rise, returned no answer of any sort. Madame D'Estampes thereupon began to solicit him, and made use of all those arts of insinuation, with which women know how to work upon men; and so successful did she prove, that happening to find the king in an amorous mood, to which he was very subject, he granted the lady all she desired. Thereupon the distiller came, accompanied by the treasurer, Glorier, one of the first nobility of France, who understood Italian incomparably well; in his language he talked to me at first after a jocular manner, and then coming to the point, told me, that in the king's name he put the other man in possession of that tennis court, and the little apartments adjoining to it. To this I answered, his sacred majesty is master of this house, and of every thing in it, you might therefore enter with the utmost freedom: but this manner of taking possession by means of the officers of a Court of justice, appears to be rather a trick than the order of so great a monarch; I therefore protest to you that instead of going to complain to his majesty, I will defend myself in the manner that he commanded me the other day, that is, I will throw this man whom you have quartered upon me out of the window, if I do not see a commission signed with his majesty's own hand. Upon my expressing myself thus, the treasurer went away men-

acing and muttering to himself, and stayed in equal ill humour, but made no farther stir in his presence. Soon after he was gone, I went in quest of the notaries, who had put the man in possession: these being my intimate acquaintances, gave me to understand that it was a ceremony performed by the king's authority, but not of so much consequence; and if I had made ever so little resistance, the man would not have taken possession as he did; that there were acts and customs of the court, which did not imply any obedience to the king, insomuch that if I thought proper to dispossess him in the same manner as he had taken possession, I should do very well, and need not be under any apprehensions with regard to the consequence. Being thus sufficiently instructed, I the next day had recourse to open violence; though there were some difficulties to struggle with, I took pleasure in exerting my utmost efforts to surmount them, and every day made some assault with stones, pikes and muskets: I however fired without ball; but even so struck such terror into my adversary's adherents, that nobody chose afterwards to stir to his assistance: finding him therefore unsupported, I one day entered the house by force, and drove him out, throwing all his goods and furniture after him. I then repaired to the king, and told him that I had done what he had commanded me, and defended myself against all those that offered to oppose me in his majesty's service. The king laughed, and caused new letters to be issued out, which should secure me from being molested for the future.

In the mean time having with the utmost diligence finished the beautiful statute of Jupiter with its gilt pedestal, I placed it upon a wooden socle I which scarce made any appearance, and within that

soele I fixed four little globes of wood, which were so admirably contrived, that a little child could with the utmost ease move this statue of Jupiter backwards and forwards, and turn it about. Having adjusted it properly, I took it with me to Fontainebleau, where the king then resided. Just about this time Bologna the painter had brought the figures already mentioned from Rome, and caused them to be cast in bronze with the utmost care ; I knew nothing at all of the matter, for he had done his business with great secrecy, and Fontainebleau is above forty miles from Paris. Upon my inquiring of the king in the presence of Madame D'Estampes, where I was to place the statue of Jupiter, the latter told his majesty, that there was not a more proper place than his beautiful gallery. This is what we might call a portico or rather a corridor ; it might indeed be most properly distinguished by the latter name, because we give the appellation of portico to those walks which are open on one side. This place was about two hundred paces long, adorned and enriched with pictures by the admirable Rosso of Florence, intermixed with several pieces of sculpture, some plain and others in basso relievo : the breadth about twelve paces. Here it was that Bologna the painter had assembled all the bronze figures, and placed them in the most regular order, upon their pedestals ; as I have observed above, there were amongst them some of the finest imitations of antique statues of Rome. Here also I introduced my Jupiter ; and when I saw this great display of the wonders of art, I said to myself, this is like passing between the pikes of the enemy ; heaven protect me from all danger. Having put the statue into its place, and fixed it in the most advantageous attitude I could, I waited the coming of the great monarch. This

figure of Jupiter had a thunderbolt in his right hand, and by his posture seemed to be just going to throw it; in his left I had placed a globe, and amongst the flames I had with great dexterity put a piece of white torch. Madame D'Estampes had detained the king till night, with a design to make mischief either one way or other, by preventing his coming, or contriving to make my work appear unfavourably in the night: as God however has promised to befriend such of his creatures as put their trust in him, it happened quite contrary to her expectations; for when I saw the night approach, I lit the torch in the hand of Jupiter, and, as it was raised somewhat above his head, the light fell upon the statue and caused it to appear to much greater advantage than it would otherwise have done. The king came accompanied by Madame D'Estampes, the dauphin his son, now king of France, and the dauphiness, the king of Navarre his cousin, Madame Margaret his daughter, and several great lords and noblemen, who had all been instructed by Madame D'Estampes to speak against me. When I saw his majesty enter I ordered my boy Ascario to push the statue of Jupiter before him, and this motion being made with admirable contrivance caused it to appear alive: thus the above-mentioned bronze figures were left somewhat behind, and the eyes of all the beholders were first struck with my performance: the king immediately cried out, this is one of the finest productions of art that ever was beheld; I who take pleasure in such things and understand them, could never have conceived a piece of work the hundredth part so beautiful. The noblemen who had been directed to rail at my performance, seemed to vie with each other in praising it; but Madame D'Estampes said with the utmost



confidence : it appears plain enough, that you are very much put to it for something to commend, when you lavish encomiums upon that statue : don't you see those beautiful antique figures which stand a little beyond it? In these the utmost perfection of art is displayed, and not in these modern pageants. The king then advanced as did the rest likewise, and cast an eye upon the other figures, which appeared to a great disadvantage, the light being placed below them : his majesty observing this, said, those who have endeavoured to hurt this man, have done him the greatest service imaginable ; for from a comparison with these admirable figures, it is evident this statue is in every respect vastly superior to them ; Benvenuto is therefore worthy of the highest esteem, since his performance instead of being barely upon a par with those of the antients, greatly surpass them. In answer to this, Madame D'Estampes observed that my statue would not at another time appear a thousandth part so well, as it did by night ; and it should be farther taken into consideration, that I had thrown a veil over the figure to conceal its blemishes. This was an exceeding thin gauze, which wantoned with the most graceful air over the shoulders of my Jupiter, and gave an additional majesty to the figure. Upon hearing the above words I took hold of the veil, and pulling it up by the bottom discovered the whole figure, and with an appearance of passion tore it quite off. The lady thought I had shewn her the naked statue out of contempt. The king perceived her resentment ; and I being overcome with passion was just going to speak, when the wise monarch uttered these words deliberately in his own language : Benvenuto, I must interrupt you ; therefore be silent, and you

shall have a thousand times more treasure than you could wish. Not being allowed to speak I discovered my emotion by my contortions: this caused the lady to be more highly incensed than ever, and made her mutter her indignation to herself. The king left the place much sooner than he otherwise would have done, declaring aloud for my encouragement, that he had brought over from Italy one of the ablest men that the world had ever produced, and one who was endowed with the greatest variety of talents.

I left my statue there, and as I chose to quit the place that morning, the king ordered me a thousand crowns partly as a recompence for my labour, and partly in payment of sums, which appeared from my accounts to have been disbursed by myself. Having received the money I returned to Paris; and immediately upon my arrival made merry at my own house: after dinner I caused all my cloaths to be brought me, which were of the finest furs or the very best cloath; out of these I made presents to all my workmen, distributing them according to their deserts, and even giving some to the maids and the stable-boys; thereby encouraging them all to assist me with alacrity. I set about finishing my statue of Mars, the armour of which I made of pieces of wood well fastened together; over his flesh there was a covering in thickness about equal to the eighth part of a cubit, made of plaister, and of the most elegant workmanship: I afterwards formed a resolution to make up the figure of several different pieces, and put them together according to the rules of art, and this I with great care effected. I must not omit to mention one circumstance that attended this great work, a thing indeed highly laughable: I had given strict orders to all who lived with me,

not to bring any women into my castle, and was particularly careful to see my orders obeyed. My boy Ascanio was in love with a girl of extraordinary beauty, who answered his passion with equal ardour; the girl having on that account fled from her mother, came one night to Ascanio, and not caring afterwards to return home, he was at a loss where to conceal her: but necessity sharpening his wit, he bethought himself of the odd expedient of hiding her in my Mars, and to stow her the best he could, in the head of the statue: there he stayed to watch her, and in the night he took her out sometimes, without making any noise. I had almost finished that head, and vanity prompted me to leave it uncovered, so that it was every day exposed to the view of the inhabitants of Paris. The neighbours began to climb upon the roofs of their houses to see it, and great numbers of people went thither on purpose to indulge their curiosity. At this same time a report became current at Paris, that my old castle was haunted by a ghost, but for my part I could never perceive any thing to induce me to think it was well founded. This ghost was universally called Bovo through the city of Paris. Now, as the girl, who was concealed in the head, could not but be sometimes seen to move, some of the foolish and credulous populace affirmed that the ghost had entered the body of the great statue, and that it made the eyes and the mouth move as if it was just going to speak. Hence it followed, that many went away frightened out of their wits; and some persons of penetration and sagacity, who came to see the figure, could not doubt the truth of what they had heard, when they contemplated the fire and brightness of the eyes of the said figure; so they declared in their

turn, that there was a spirit within it; not being aware, that there was not only spirit in it, but likewise good sound flesh. In the mean time, I was busy in putting together my fine gate, with all the ornaments described above.

## CHAPTER X.

*A war breaking out with the emperor Charles V. the author is employed to fortify Paris—Madame D'Estampes by constant artifices prejudices the king against Cellini—His majesty's expostulation with the latter—Madame D'Estampes continues her ill offices—Cellini has another conference with the king, in which he declares his desire of returning to Italy—He obtains his majesty's permission by means of cardinal Ferrara.*

AS I do not chuse to relate, in this narrative of my life, things which do not concern me, but the writers of chronicles; I have passed over the arrival of the emperor on the French frontiers with a numerous army, and the king's drawing together a considerable number of the troops to oppose him. His majesty, about this time, consulted me concerning the means of expeditiously fortifying, Paris, he came purposely to my house in quest of me, led me all round the city, and perceiving how judiciously I talked upon the subject of fortifications, he empowered me by an express commission to cause all I proposed to be instantly carried into execution; at the same time he signified to his admiral, lord Annebaut, to order the people to obey me, upon pain of his displeasure. The admiral was a man of



no genius, who owed his exalted dignity to the favour of Madame D'Estampes, and not to any merit of his own. This blockhead having told Madame D'Estampes of all that had passed between the king and me, she commanded him to send for Girolamo Bellarmato directly. The latter was an engineer of Sienna, who lived about a day's journey from Paris. He instantly came, and had recourse to the most slow and tedious method of fortification. I concerned myself no longer in the affair, and if the emperor had advanced briskly to Paris, that city might have been easily taken: it was said, with great truth, that in the treaty, afterwards concluded, Madame D'Estampes, who was the person most concerned in negotiating it, had betrayed the king, and exposed him to the enemy. I shall say nothing farther concerning this matter, because it does not enter into my plan, or is it connected with the main subject of my narrative.

I then set about finishing my gate of bronze, with the utmost assiduity and expedition; as likewise my great vase, and two other middling ones, made of my own silver. The good king after all his various distresses, came to rest himself for a while at Paris; and as his pestilential mistress seemed born for the destruction of the kingdom, I think I may justly value myself upon her hating me, as her capital enemy. Having entered into a conversation with the king concerning my affair, she spoke so ill of me, that the easy monarch, through complaisance to that deceitful woman, swore he would never shew me the least favour, no more than if he had not known any such person. These words were immediately repeated to me by a page of the cardinal of Ferrara, whose name was Ville; he told me he had himself heard them from the king's own

mouth. This intelligence put me into so violent a passion, that, having thrown down my tools and all my other works, I formed a resolution to quit the kingdom directly. I repaired that moment to the king, after he had dined, and entered an apartment where his majesty was, with a very few persons attending him. When he saw me, I bowed to him with the respect due to a king, and he nodded to me with a chearful countenance. I then began to conceive some hopes, and gradually approached his majesty, because they were shewing him some things relative to my profession : after some little conversation concerning these matters, the monarch asked me, whether I had any thing clever to shew at my house ? adding, that he would go thither to see it, whenever I thought convenient. I made answer, that I was ready to shew him something curious just at that time, if it were agreeable to his majesty. He then ordered me to go home, and said he would follow me without delay. I went accordingly, and waited the coming of the good monarch, who was gone to take his leave of Madame D'Estampes. The lady having heard where he was going, told his majesty, that she did not chuse to accompany him ; and moreover requested him not to go to my house that day himself : she used reiterated intreaties to dissuade him from his purpose, and that day he did not come near me. The day following, I returned to his majesty at the very same hour ; the instant that he saw me he swore he would repair directly to my house. Whilst he was taking leave of his dear Madame D'Estampes, she, though spite at her not having influence enough to prevent his going, spoke as bitterly of me, as if I had been an inveterate enemy to the crown ; the king declared, that his sole intention in going to see me was, to scold and reproach

me, in such terms, as could not fail to throw me into a panic. He faithfully promised Madame D'Estampes that he would act in that manner. When he came to my house, I shewed him into some ground-floor apartments, in which I had put together the several parts of the gate of Fontaine-bleau ; the king was seized with such astonishment, that he could not find in his heart to load me with abuse, as he had promised Madame D'Estampes. He did not however chuse entirely to go back of his word, as appears from his having expressed himself to this effect ; it is something extraordinary, Benvenuto, that you men of genius are not sensible of your inability to display your talents without our assistance, and that you shew yourselves great only by means of the opportunities that we afford you ; it would become you to be a little more humble, and less proud and opiniative. I remember I gave you ~~express~~ orders to make twelve silver statues for me, and that was all I desired of you ; but you took it into your head to make me a salt-cellar, vases, heads, and a thousand other fancies of your own, insomuch that I am quite surprised you should neglect all that I required of you, and mind nothing but pleasing yourself. If you continue to behave thus, I will shew you in what manner I am used to proceed, when I want to have things done my own way ; I must therefore repeat it to you, that I insist upon your shewing yourself obedient, when I lay my commands upon you ; because, if you continue obstinate in your whims, you will only run your head against the wall.

Whilst his majesty uttered these words, the noblemen stood with the most profound attention, perceiving that he shook his head, knit his brows, and used a variety of gestures, sometimes with one hand and sometimes with the other ; all present therefore

began to tremble for me, but I was not under the least apprehension myself. As soon as he had made an end of reprimanding me, as he had promised Madame D'Estampes, I kneeled with one knee upon the ground, and, kissing his mantle, addressed him in the following terms : Sire, I acknowledge the truth of what you say; all I have to alledge in my defence is, that my heart has been constantly attentive, day and night, to obey and serve you, with the utmost exertion of all my faculties ; whatever appears to the contrary to your majesty, you may depend upon it, does not come from Benvenuto, but is the work of my adverse fate, which has rendered me unworthy of serving the greatest prince that the world ever beheld ; I therefore humbly ask your pardon. It appeared to me, that your majesty gave me silver for one statue only, and, as I had none of my own, I could make only that ; so with the little silver that was left, I made the vase, to give your majesty an idea of the beautiful manner of antiquity, which was perhaps unknown to you before. With regard to the salt-cellar, as well as I can recollect, you one day desired me to make one, in consequence of some conversation concerning a salt-cellar that was shewn you ; upon which I produced you a model, which I had formerly made in Italy, solely at your majesty's request, and you were pleased to order me a thousand ducats for making it, declaring yourself highly pleased with my performance ; you even went so far as to thank me, when I gave it to you finished. As for the gate, I apprehend that your majesty, in some occasional conversation, gave orders to Mons. de Villeroy, your secretary, to direct Mess. Marmande and Apa to employ me in such a work, and supply me with money ; for without that assistance, I could not possibly have gone on

with the work. With regard to the heads, I should not have thought of casting such large pieces, except merely to try my hand at that branch of business. The vases I made, in a persuasion that they were admirably suited to such figures ; however, in all I undertook, I endeavoured to do my best, and never loose sight of what your majesty intended. True it is, I made the great Colossal statue, and brought it to its present degree of perfection, at my own expence ; for it appeared to me that it would become the dignity of so great a monarch, and reflect some honour on my slender abilities, that such a statue should be made in your kingdom, as had never been seen by the ancients. But since I perceive that God has not thought proper to render me worthy of so honourable a service, I request it of your majesty, that instead of the noble recompence you intended to make me for my labours, you would only give me a small share of your good will, and leave to depart ; if you condescend to grant me this favour, I will instantly set out for Italy, returning thanks to the Supreme Being for the happy hours that I have been in your majesty's service. When I had finished, the king took me by the hand, and in the kindest manner imaginable, raised me from the ground ; he told me I should be contented with his service, and that all I had done for him he was highly pleased with : turning afterwards to the noblemen present, he deliberately uttered these words ; I really believe, that if there were to be gates to Paradise, it never could have any finer than this. When I saw that he had made an end of speaking, though his words were highly favourable to me, I again in the most respectful manner returned him thanks, at the same time repeating my request to be dismissed, as my resentment had not yet entire-



ly subsided. When the great monarch perceived that I made such a return to his extraordinary cares, he commanded me in a loud and tremendous voice, not to utter another word, for that if I did, I should repent it; he farther added, that he would smother me in gold, and that he gave me leave to depart; that the works which he had employed me upon, were not so much as begun; but with respect to what I had done out of my own head, he was very well pleased, and he should never have any other difference with me, because he knew me thoroughly; that I should endeavour to study his temper, and know him, as duty required of me. After answering, that I thanked God and his majesty for every thing, I requested him to come and take a view of the Colossal statue, which was by this time in great forwardness; so he came to my house. I caused the statue to be uncovered, and nothing could equal his astonishment at beholding it. He gave orders to one of his secretaries, instantly to reimburse me the money I had spent out of my own pocket, let the sum be ever so great, provided I gave him an account written with my own hand: upon which he left the place, saying to me, Adieu, mon ami, my friend, farewell; an expression seldom used by a king.

When he got back to his palace, he could not help thinking of the words I had used to him, some of which were so very humble, and others so excessively proud and haughty, that they had nettled him greatly: some of the latter he repeated before Madame D'Estampes, when Mons. de St. Paul, one of the great barons of France, happened to be present. That nobleman, who had always warmly professed himself my friend, upon that occasion convinced the whole kingdom of the sincerity of

his professions: after a good deal of conversation, the king complained of the cardinal of Ferrara; that when he had put me under his care, he gave himself no longer any concern about me; and though I had not quitted the kingdom, it was not the cardinal that had prevented me; therefore he had serious thoughts of putting me under the care of some other person, fitter for that office, as he did not chuse to be any longer in danger of losing me. At these words Mons. de St. Paul offered his service, telling the king, that he would take particular care that I should no longer be any way tempted to leave the kingdom. The king replied, that he consented, if St. Paul would tell him the method he would pursue, to prevent me from deserting his service. Madame D'Estampes all this while was in a very ill humour, and St. Paul for a time declined answering his majesty: but the king having asked the question a second time, St. Paul to please Madame D'Estampes, made answer, I should order Benvenuto to be hanged, and then you would be sure of his not making his escape out of the kingdom. Madame D'Estampes burst out into a loud laugh, and declared it was what I very well deserved. The king thereupon began to laugh, to keep her company. He agreed, he said, to St. Paul's hanging me, provided the latter could first find an artist of equal abilities; and though I had never done any thing to deserve hanging, he in that case left him entirely at liberty to act as he thought proper. Thus did the day end, and I remained in security and perfect health, for which thanks and praise be to the Almighty.

At this time the king had put an end to the war with the emperor, but not to that with the English; insomuch that those devils caused us great perplexity: the king, whose thoughts were not entirely en-

grossed by pleasure had commanded Piero Strozzi to sail with certain gallies into the English seas, though it was a very difficult and dangerous enterprize. That excellent officer was one of the greatest men of the age in which he lived, and at the same time one of the most unfortunate. Several months had passed since I had received any money, or any order to work, insomuch that I had dismissed all my journeymen, except the two Italians, whom I employed in making two little vases of my own silver, because they did not understand working in bronze. As soon as they had finished these pieces, I carried them to a town belonging to the queen of Navarre, called Argenton, distant several days journey from Paris. I arrived at the place, and found the king indisposed: the cardinal of Ferrara informed his majesty of my arrival; the king made him no answer, so that I was obliged to stay there several days in great perplexity, and indeed I never was more disgusted in the whole course of my life. Not long after, I presented myself one evening before his majesty, and shewed him the two fine vases, with which he was highly delighted. When I saw him in a good humour, I requested him to let me take a tour to Italy, for pleasure and recreation, and that I would leave seven months sallery, which his majesty was in arrear to me, to be remitted to me in Italy, in case I wanted it. I begged that he would be graciously pleased to grant me that favour, as it was then a time to think of military operations, and not of making statues. I added, that as his majesty had granted Bologna the painter such a favour, I hoped he would shew me the same indulgence. Whilst I uttered these words, the king looked attentively at the two vases, and sometimes frowned at me so sternly, that I was quite shocked: I however

continued to request the same favour, and entreated him to grant it me, in the most persuasive manner I possibly could. He appeared to me to be in a great passion, and, upon his rising spoke to me thus in Italian: Benvenuto, you are a great fool; carry those vases directly to Paris, for I want to have them gilt; and without making me any other answer, he departed. I repaired to the cardinal of Ferrara, and requested him, that, since he had been so good a friend to me, in delivering me out of prison in Rome, and conferring on me so many other favours, he would add one more to them, in endeavouring to procure leave for me from his majesty to return to Italy. The cardinal made answer, that he would gladly do any thing that lay in his power to oblige me, and that I might leave the affair entirely to him: nay, that if I chose it, I might go directly, and he would take care to excuse me to the king. I then said to him, that since his majesty has put me under the care of his reverence, if he were pleased to give me leave, I would set out directly, and return whenever he should think proper to signify his pleasure. The cardinal desired me to go to Paris, and stay there a week, assuring me that he would in that time obtain leave for me to return to my own country; that in case however the king was against my going, he would let me know it by letter: but if I did not hear from him in that time, I might set out for Italy.

## BOOK IV.

## CHAPTER I.

*The author having stettled his affairs, leaves his house and effects in the care of two servants, and sets out for Italy—Ascanio is sent after him to demand the two vases belonging to the king—Terrible storm in the neighbourhood of Lyons—The author meets Galeotto of Mirandola in Italy, who apprizes him of the treachery of the cardinal of Ferrara and his two servants—At Placentia he meets with duke Piner-Luigi—What passed at their interview—He arrives safe at Florence, where he finds his sister with her six young daughters.*

AT my return to Paris, I followed the cardinal's directions, and made very fine cases for the two pieces of plate. Twenty days being expired, I got ready for my departure, and put the the two vases upon a mule of burthen, which had been lent me as far as Lyons, by the Bishop of Pavia, to whom I had again given an apartment in my castle. I departed in an unlucky hour, with Signor Hippolito Gonzaga, (who received the king's pay, and was likewise in the service of Count Galeotto of Mirandola) with



some other gentleman belonging to the said count. There likewise went with us Lionardo Tedaldi, a Florentine. I left, under the care of my journeymen, my castle and all my effects, amongst which were some little vases just begun; there was likewise in my house a good deal of furniture, of great value, for I made a considerable figure at Paris. The value of these effects of mine amounted to above fifteen hundred crowns. I desired Ascanio to remember all the favours he had received from me, telling him, that hitherto he had been only a giddy youth, but it was then high time for him to think solidly, and behave like a man; that I choose to leave under his care all my effects, and even my honour itself; adding, that in case he should happen to be ill-used by any of those French rascals, he had no more to do but write to me, and I would instantly ride post to Paris, as well on account of the great obligations I had to the king of France, as to assert my honour. Ascanio said to me, with the counterfeit tears of a thief, I never had a more indulgent and tender father than you: I will therefore always behave to you as the most dutiful son would to the best and kindest of fathers. Matters being thus settled, I set out attended by a footman and a little French boy. In about six hours after my departure, there came to my house some of the treasurers, who were by no means my friends. These rascallions ordered Signor Guido and the archbishop of Pavia to send after me directly for the king's vases, otherwise they would dispatch a person for them in a manner I should not like. The bishop and Signor Guido were much more affraid upon the occasion than they need have been, so that they immediately sent after me the treacherous Ascanio, whom I saw about midnight. I was kept awake by my anxiety, and said in a sorrowful

mood to myself, To whose care do I leave my effects and my castle? What strange decrees of fate obliges me to undertake this journey? The cardinal must certainly be in confederacy with Madame D'Estampes, who desires nothing more earnestly, than that I should forfeit that good king's favour. Whilst I was in this agitation of mind, hearing myself called by Ascanio, I instantly rose, and asked him, whether he brought good or bad news? The thief answered, I bring you good news; but you must send back the vases, for those rogues of treasurers make a terrible stir about them; so that the bishop and Signor Guido insist upon your sending them back by all means. Be under no apprehensions about any thing else, but make your tour, and enjoy all the pleasures that life can afford. I thereupon put the two vases into his hands; but the money and other effects I carried to the abbey of the cardinal of Ferrara at Lyons; for, though it was given out that I intended to carry them with me to Italy, it is well known that no specie, either gold or silver, can be conveyed out of the kingdom, without particular permission: it should therefore be well considered, whether it would have been possible for me to carry off the two large beautiful vases, which, with the boxes that contained them, loaded a mule. It is true, that as they were very fine things, and of great value, I was apprehensive of the king's death, having left him very much indisposed; but I comforted myself with the reflexion, that if any thing were to happen, I could not lose them, as they were in the hands of the cardinal. To proceed: I sent back the mule, with the vases and other things of value; and, with the company above-mentioned, continued my journey the next morning: but I could not all the whole way refrain from sighing

and weeping. I sometimes indeed sought consolation, by addressing myself to God in such terms as these: O Lord, to whom the truth is manifest, thou knowest that I travel in this manner, merely to assist six poor unfortunate maidens, and their mother, who is my own sister; for, though their father is still living, he is so far advanced in years, and makes so little by his business, that they may probably be in very distressed circumstances: therefore, in performing this pious office, I hope from thy divine majesty, assistance and advice. This was my only consolation, as I travelled on to Italy. When we were within a day's journey of Lyons, it being almost ten o'clock at night, some dry thunder-claps were heard, and the air flashed with lightning; I was about a bow-shot before my companions; after the lightning, there issued so loud and terrible a rattle from the sky, that I thought it was the day of judgment: I stopped a while, when there began to fall a thick shower of hail, without a single drop of rain; the hail-stones were of an extraordinary thickness, and hurt me excessively; the shower grew thicker and thicker, so that the hail-stones at last were as big as the stones of a cross-bow. Perceiving my horse terribly frightened, I rode back with the utmost speed, till I came up with my company, who, being seized with a panic of the same, had taken shelter in a grove of pines. The hail at length rose to the size of lemons, and I cried out, Have mercy upon me, O God; whilst I was devoutly addressing the Deity, there came a hail-stone so big, that it broke off a large branch of the pine-tree, under the shelter of which I thought myself in safety: another heap of the hail-stones fell upon the head of my horse, which seemed just ready to drop down; and one of them hit myself, but not com-

pletely, for it would certainly have killed me : another likewise struck poor old Lionardo Tedaldi, so that he, who, like me, had been almost upon his knees, fell with his hands to the ground. Perceiving then that this branch could no longer afford shelter, either to myself or the rest, and that, besides singing psalms, some exertion of the powers was necessary, I began to wrap my cloaths about my head, and told Lionardo, who was incessantly crying out, Jesus, Jesus, that Jesus would assist him, if he endeavoured to help himself ; so that I found more difficulty in attending to this old man's preservation, than to my own. This trouble lasted for a considerable time, and at last ceased. After we had been all terribly pelted, we remounted our horses the best we could ; and whilst we were travelling on to the inn where we intended to lodge, and shewing each other our hurts and bruises, we found, at about a mile's Distance, scenes of distress so much deeper than our own, that it is almost impossible to describe it. The trees were all broken down, and all the cattle were deprived of life ; we likewise found a great many shepherds killed ; and, upon seeing several hail-stones, which a man would have found it a difficult matter to have grasped with both hands, we thought ourselves very happy in having come off as we did. We were then sensible, that calling upon God, and singing those psalms had done us more good than we could have done ourselves : we therefore returned thanks to the Supreme Being, and continued our journey to Lyons. The day following we arrived at that city, and made a stay of a week ; after having well refreshed ourselves, we continued our journey, and passed the mountains happily : there I bought a colt, be-

cause the baggage I had with me had quite fatigued my horses.

When we had been a day in Italy, we were joined by count Galeotto of Mirandola, who had travelled post; he stayed a while with us, and told me, that I had taken a wrong step in leaving France; that it would be advisable for me not to proceed any farther, because my affairs might suddenly change their aspect and take a more favourable turn than ever: he concluded with observing, that, by continuing my journey, I should open a field to my enemies, and give them an opportunity to hurt me: whereas, by returning directly, I should defeat the stratagems of their malice, and prevent them from taking effect; he added, that those in whom I put the greatest confidence, were the very persons that imposed upon me. The count did not chuse to explain himself any further, but knew very well that the cardinal of Ferrara was in a confederacy with my two rogues of journeymen, in whose care I had left all my effects. He again repeated it, that I ought by all means to return to Paris; and, taking leave of me, travelled on with post-horses, whilst I with my company above mentioned chose to ride forward also. Being in a constant agitation, sometimes wishing to arrive speedily at Florence, sometimes desirous to return to France, I continued in this wavering state, till at last I formed a resolution to take post, in order to reach Florence with the utmost expedition. As I could not reconcile my mind to go back to France, I determined to go and pass a melancholy life at Florence; and therefore parted company with Signor Hippolito Gonzaga, who had taken the road to Mirandola: mine was through Parma and Placentia. Being arrived at Placentia, I happened to meet in one of the streets



of that city, with duke Pier-Luigi, who examining me attentively, knew me again. Sensible that all I had suffered in the castle of St. Angelo took its rise from this man, I felt the utmost indignation at the sight of him ; but not being able to think of any expedient to get out of his power, I at last resolved to pay him a visit. I entered just as his servants were taking away, and there were with him some persons belonging to the family of Landi, the same by whom he was afterwards murdered. At my arrival he lavished his caresses upon me immoderately ; he then entered into conversation, and told those present, that I had been a long time in prison at Rome. He addressed himself afterwards to me, and said, My good friend Benvenuto, I was very sorry for your misfortune, from my consciousness of your innocence ; but it was not in my power to relieve you ; my father persecuted you at the instigation of some of your enemies, who had insinuated that you had spoken ill of him, though I am certain you never did, and was very much concerned for your sufferings. To these words he added so many more of the same tendency, that he seemed almost to ask my pardon. He enquired next about the several pieces of work that I had done for his most Christian majesty : upon my giving him an account of them, he seemed to be all attention, and listened to me with the greatest complaisance imaginable. This being over, he asked me whether I was willing to enter into his service ; I made answer, that I could not consistently with the laws of honour ; adding, that if I had once finished the great works I had begun for the king, I would neglect the service of all the greatest lords, to devote myself entirely to his excellency.

Upon this occasion, the Divine Justice (which never leaves those unpunished, who oppress and ill-treat the innocent) displayed itself conspicuously : this man, as it were, asked pardon of me in the presence of those who soon after revenged me, as well as many more, that had been used by him with barbarity : therefore no prince, nor lord, however potent, should laugh at the Divine Vengeance ; which was the case of many of those who most cruelly outraged me, as I shall inform the reader in due time. I do not write this narrative of my adventures through a motive of vanity ; but merely to return thanks to God, who has extricated me out of so many trials and difficulties ; who likewise delivers me from those that impend over me. Upon all occasions, I pay my addresses to him, and recommend myself to his care : I always exert my utmost efforts to extricate myself ; but when I am quite at a loss, and all my powers fail me, then the force of the Deity displays itself, that formidable force which unexpectedly attacks those who wrong and oppress others, and such as neglect the great and honourable duty which God has enjoined them.

Upon my return to my inn, I found that the duke had sent me several considerable presents of meats and wines ; I eat heartily ; and having mounted on horse-back, bent my course towards Florence : at my arrival in that city, I found my sister, with six little daughters, one of whom was marriageable, and one still in the nurse's arms ; I likewise found her husband there, who, on account of a variety of accidents that had befallen him, no longer continued his business. I had above a twelve-month before sent them jewels and French presents to the value of above two thousand ducats, and had then brought with me to the amount a thou-

sand crowns. Upon this occasion I discovered, that though I allowed them four gold crowns a month, they every day raised money upon presents, which they were continually selling. My brother-in-law was a man of so much principle, that for fear I should be angry with him, when the money I sent him for his support proved insufficient, he pawned all he had in the world, and borrowed upon the most exorbitant interest, purely to avoid meddling with the money that was not intended for him: in consequence of this behaviour, I knew him to be a man of great virtue and integrity, conceived a greater desire to serve him than ever, and grew impatient to provide for all his little daughters before I left Florence.

## CHAPTER. II.

*Cellini is graciously received by Cosmo de Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany—After a long conference he engages in the Duke's service—The Duke assigns Cellini a house to work in—Delays of the Duke's servants to fit it up for the author's use—Ridiculous scene between him and the Duke's steward.*

THE duke of Florence happening to be about this time, which was the month of August in the year 1545, at Cojano, a place ten miles distant from Florencè, I waited on his excellency, merely to compliment him, as I was a citizen of Florence, and as my ancestors had been very much attached to the house of Medici, but none of them more so than myself: I therefore repaired to Cojano, solely to pay my respects to duke Cosmo, whom I had an affection for, and not with an intention to make any stay. But as God orders all things for the best, it was his divine will, that when the duke saw me, after receiving me with the greatest kindness, and profusely lavishing his caresses on me, both he and the duchess began to enquire about the different works that I had made for the king of France. I gladly and without hesitation gave them a circumstantial narrative of all I had done for that monarch.

When the duke had heard me to an end, he said that he had been informed of the whole before, and that all I had related was true ; he then exclaimed, how ill have so many great and beautiful works been rewarded ! my good friend Benvenuto, if you would do something for me, I would pay you in another guess manner than that king has done, upon whom you lavish your praises. I then replied, that I had great obligations to his majesty for delivering me from an unjust confinement, and afterwards giving me an opportunity of signalizing myself by the most admirable performances that were ever done by any artificer. Whilst I expressed myself thus, the duke made strange contortions, and seemed hardly to have patience to hear me out ; as soon as I had ceased speaking, he said, if you are willing to work for me, I will pay you in such a manner as will perhaps surprize you, provided I am pleased with your performance, as I make no doubt but I shall. I, like a poor unfortunate creature as I was, being desirous of shewing, that since I left that admirable school, I had cultivated talents which it did not think of, answered the duke, that I would gladly undertake to make a great statue of marble or bronze for his fine square at Florence. He replied, that all he desired for a specimen, was a Perseus. This he had expressed a desire of having, for some time, and bid me make him a little model of one ; accordingly, in a few weeks, I finished one about a cubit in length : it was made of yellow wax, and both ingenuity and labour were exerted in the execution. The duke came to Florence, and before I could have an opportunity of shewing him this model, there passed several days, during which he behaved as if he had never seen nor known me, so that I began to think myself upon indifferent terms



with his excellency. But having one day after dinner carried this model into his wardrobe, I found him with the dutchess and some of the nobility; he no sooner saw it, but he was pleased with and praised it to excess, which made me in some measure hope that he would have a right idea of it. When he had sufficiently viewed it, his satisfaction was greatly increased, and he expressed himself to this effect: my friend Benvenuto, if you were to make a great work according to this little model, it would surpass every thing in the square. I then replied: most excellent Sir, in the square of Florence, are the works of the great Donatello and the admirable Michael Angelo, the two greatest statuaries since the days of the ancients; your excellency therefore pays me a high compliment, for I will take upon me that the execution of the work shall be three times as masterly, as that of the model. The duke, who maintained that he was a great connoisseur in these things, disputed the matter with me for a while. I answered that my works would decide the contest, and put his excellency out of all doubt, for I was sure of being able to do more than keep my word; I at the same time desired he would afford me the means of carrying my design into execution, because without such assistance it would be impossible for me to keep the promise I had made his excellency. Upon which he bid me give in to him a written account of all I had occasion for, without omitting a single article, and he would take care I should be properly supplied. Certain it is, that if I had been sufficiently cautious to make an agreement in writing for all that I had occasion for in my works, I should not have had half the trouble and perplexity which I brought upon myself by my own negligence; for the duke seemed to have a great

desire to have works done, and to supply those employed in them; but I not being aware that he intended to engage in great undertakings, proceeded in the most generous manner with his excellency. I however made out the account in writing, which was answered with the greatest liberality imaginable, whereupon I said; most noble patron, contracts do not properly consist in verbal agreements, nor in such writings as this; all that is required is that I should keep my promise with your excellency; in case I succeed, I take it for granted you will remember me, and perform all that you have promised on your part. Upon my expressing myself thus, the duke was so highly pleased with my words and my behaviour, that both he and the duchess lavished upon me the most extraordinary compliments and caresses conceivable. As I had a strong desire to set about my work directly, I told his excellency that I had occasion for a house of such a sort, that I could conveniently set up my little furnaces in it, and carry on a variety of works, both of earth and bronze, and of gold and silver separately; for I knew how likely he was to make use of me in the various branches of my business, and I could not conduct it without proper apartments for the purpose. I told him at the same time that to convince his excellency how zealous I was to serve him, I had already pitched upon a house that would answer my intentions, and with the situation of which I was highly pleased; but as I did not intend to trouble him for money or any thing else, till he had seen my performance, I had brought two jewels with me from France, with which I requested his excellency to purchase that house for me; and desired he would keep them in his possession till I had earned them by my labour: the workmanship of these jewels were exquisite,

and done by my journeymen from my own designs. After having looked at them for a time, the duke expressed himself in these encouraging terms, which inspired me with the most flattering expectations. Take your jewels again, Benvenuto, for it is you I want and not them; you shall have the house you mention without its costing you any thing; he then wrote a line under my memorial, which I have ever since kept by me, and the purport of which was as follows. Let the house be examined, and the price of it enquired into, for we intend it for Benvenuto. When I read this order, I thought myself sure of the house, and fancied that my works would not fail to give the highest satisfaction to my employer. His excellency at the same time gave express orders about the affair to his steward, named Pier Francesco Riccio, (who was a native of Prato, and had formerly been tutor to the duke). I spoke to this fool of a fellow, and gave him an exact account of all I stood in need of: for I proposed to erect a shop on a piece of ground which was then laid out in a garden; the steward immediately employed a close, artful agent whose name was Lattanzio Gorini. This little man, who seemed to crawl like a spider, had a feeble voice resembling that of a gnat, and was as slow as a snail in his motions; he unluckily caused such a small quantity of stones, sand and mortar to be brought to the spot, as would have scarce made a pigeon house. Perceiving that things went on so ill, I began to be alarmed; I however said within myself, little beginnings sometimes conduct to a great end; I likewise conceived some hopes, from seeing how many thousand ducats the duke had squandered away upon some little ordinary works of sculpture done by the stupid Baccio Bandinello. So rousing my spirits the best I could, I did my ut-

most to stimulate Lattanzio, and the better to excite him, I employed some other mean fellows, that had an influence over him to remind him of his duty. Although I had so many difficulties to encounter, I with my own money caused a place to be marked out for a shop; ordering vines and other trees to be plucked up by the roots, with my usual ardour, and even with a degree of fury. At the same time I employed one Tasso, a carpenter, who was my intimate friend, and got him to make certain props and supports of wood, that I might begin my great statue of Perseus. This Tasso was an excellent workman; I do not think he was ever equalled in his business; besides he was facetious and merry; for every time I went to him, he came up to me smiling, with a ballad in his hand; I was by this time half desperate, as well from having heard that my affairs were in a very untoward situation in France, as because I had but little hopes from my employers here on account of their coldness. I constantly put a constraint upon myself, to hear one half of my carpenter's ballad, but at last I grew cheerful in his company, making an effort to dispel some of my melancholy and desponding thoughts.

I had now given proper directions, concerning all the things above-mentioned, and began to hurry the workmen on, that I might the sooner prepare for my great undertaking: already part of the mortar had been used, when I was sent for by the duke's steward; upon which I instantly repaired to him, and found him just after the duke had dined, in the hall of the palace where the clock stood: as I approached him with respect, he with great rudeness and asperity asked me, who had put me in possession of that house, and by what authority I had begun to build there? adding that he was quite sur-



prized at my boldness and presumption. I answered that I had been put in possession of the house by his excellency, who had upon the occasion employed one Lattanzio Gorini, as his agent; that the said Lattanzio had caused stones, sand and mortar to be carried to the house, and had supplied me with all I wanted; I added that for all this, I had received his own order, though he questioned me about my authority. When I had expressed myself in this manner, the beastly fellow flew into a more violent passion than at first, and told me that neither he nor any of those I mentioned, had spoke the truth. This behaviour at last provoked my resentment, and I replied to him in these terms: Mr. Steward, so long as you speak in a manner agreeably to the dignity of your character, I shall have a due regard for you, and address you with the same respect that I do the duke himself; but in case you behave otherwise, I shall speak to you only as T. Francesco del Riccio. Hereupon the old man flew into such a passion, that I thought he would instantly have been deprived of his senses: he told me with much opprobrious language, that he was surprized he should condescend so far as to speak to such a person as me. At these words I was incensed with the highest indignation, and said: hear me a word or two, T. Francesco del Riccio, and I will tell you who are my equals, and who are yours; yours are pedagogues that teach children to read. The old man thereupon with a countenance quite inflamed with choler, raised his voice, and repeated the very same words as before: I begun in my turn to look big, and assuming somewhat to myself, told him that such men as I were worthy of speaking to popes, emperors, and mighty monarchs: that there was perhaps but one such as



I in the world, whereas, there were dozens such as he to be met with in every corner. When he heard this, he went up towards a window in the hall, and desired me to repeat my words once more; I accordingly repeated them more boldly than at first; adding, that I no longer desired to serve the duke, and that I would go back to France, where I was sure of being welcome. The fool remained quite thunder-struck, and as pale as ashes, whilst I went off in a violent passion, with a resolution to leave the place; and would to God I had put my design in execution! The duke certainly did not immediately hear of this devilish broil, for I stayed a few days, having laid aside all thoughts of Florence, except so far as related to my sister and my nieces, whom I provided for the best I could, with what little money I had left. I was then for returning to France, without any inclination ever to see Italy again, being resolved to go off with all possible expedition, and that without taking my leave of the duke or any body else whatever. One morning the steward sent for me of his own accord, and began with an air of great humility to make a long pedantic oration, in which I could perceive neither method, energy, head or tail; all I could gather from it was, that as he professed himself to be a christian, he did not care to harbour malice against any man, and now he asked me in the duke's name what salary I required for my support. I thereupon continued for a time wrapt up in meditation, without returning any answer, and the reason was that I did not intend to stay at Florence. Perceiving that I did not answer immediately, he carried his complaisance so far as to say: Benvenuto, a duke is deserving of an answer, what I say to you is by the duke's orders. I then replied, and bid him tell his

excellency, that I could by no means submit to be below any of those of my profession, whom he had at his court. The steward immediately said: Bandinello has a pension of two hundred crowns a year; so that if that sum will satisfy you, your salary is fixed; I told him it would, and if I deserved any thing over, it might be given me after my works had been seen, and should be left entirely to his excellency's judgment and pleasure. Thus did I against my inclination, again engage in this service, and began to work; the duke every day lavished new favours on me, and treated me with the greatest kindness conceivable.

## CHAPTER III.

*The French king is prejudiced against the author by the treacherous insinuations of Cellini's own servants—This prevents his return to France—He undertakes a large statue of Perseus and Andromeda, but meets with great difficulty in carrying on the work, through the jealousy and perfidious behaviour of the sculptor Bandinello—He receives letters from France, by which he is censured for returning to Italy before he had settled his accounts with the king—He answers by giving a clear account in writing—Story of a fraud committed by the grand duke's servants in the sale of a diamond.*

BY this time I had received several letters from France, from my faithful friend signor Guido Guidi ; but none of these letters had brought any bad news ; Ascanio himself wrote to me from time to time, desiring me to indulge my genius without reserve, and assuring me, that if any thing happened, he would take care to apprize me of it. The king was informed that I had entered into the service of the duke of Florence, and as he was the best natured prince in the whole world, he often said, why does not Benvenuto return ? Having enquired in a particular manner of my two young men, they both told him, that I had often written word of

my being greatly encouraged and very happy where I was, and that they did not apprehend I should ever come back to serve his majesty. The king, highly incensed upon hearing these disrespectful words, which never came from me, replied: since he has quitted my service without any cause, I will never again enquire after him: so he may stay where he is. Thus these villains and assassins brought affairs to the crisis they desired: for in case I had returned to France, they must again have become my journeymen and dependants as at first; but if I never came back, they would be their own masters, and have all my business; hence it was that they exerted themselves to the utmost, to prevent my return. Whilst I was getting my shop erected, in order to begin the statue of Perseus, I worked in a room on the ground floor, in which I made a model of that statue in plaster, of the real size of the work, intending to conform to that model. When I found that this method was likely to prove somewhat tedious, I had recourse to another expedient: for by this time I had a shop erected of bricks piled upon one another in so miserable a manner, that the very remembrance of it makes me uneasy. I began the arrangement of the bones, or rather the figure of the Medusa, and made the skeleton or bony part of iron: I afterwards made it of earth, and when I had done this, I put it together with the assistance of some of my little apprentices, one of whom was of an extraordinary beauty; and whom I kept with a view of drawing his likeness (for there are no books that teach this art like nature herself) and I enquired about for journeymen in order to dispatch the work the sooner; but I could find none, and it was morally impossible for me to do the business myself in all its branches.

There were some in Florence who would willingly have entered into my service, but Bandinello found means to prevent them : not satisfied with thus distressing me, he told the duke that I endeavoured to decoy his workmen, because I could never of myself contrive to put a great figure together. I complained to the duke of the ill offices done me by this fool ; and begged he would procure me some journeymen to assist me. These words made the duke believe what was told him by Bandinello : perceiving this, I resolved to do the best I could by myself, and fell to work under the greatest difficulties conceivable. Whilst I laboured in this manner night and day, my sister's husband was taken ill, and died in a few days. He left to my care his wife, who was a young woman with six daughters, some of them grown up, and some very little ; this was the first trouble I had in Florence, to be left father and guardian of a whole afflicted and disconsolate family. Desirous however of carrying on my business the best I could, and seeing my garden full of dirt, I sent for two porters, who were brought to me from the old bridge ; one of these was an old man of seventy, the other a stripling of eighteen ; when they had been with me about three days, the young porter told me that the old fellow would not work, and advised me to turn him off, for he was not only idle himself, but hindered him from minding his business ; he added, that the little there was to be done, he was able to do himself, and there was no occasion for my throwing away my money. When I saw him so well disposed to work, I asked him whether he was willing to live with me as my servant, and we were soon agreed. This young man, whose name was Bernardino Manellini of Mugello, took care of my horse, worked in the



garden, and even endeavoured to assist me in the shop; at last he began to learn the art so well, that I never in my life had a better assistant; resolving therefore to do the whole business by means of such a helper, I began to convince the duke that Bandinello was a liar, and that I could do very well without the assistance of his journeymen. I was about this time troubled with a pain in my back, and being unable to work, was glad to pass my time in the duke's wardrobe, with two young goldsmiths, whose names were Giovanpaolo and Dominic Poggini, whom I put upon making a little golden vase, wrought with a relievo of figures and other ornaments; this belonged to the dutchess, and her excellency had it made to drink water out of; she desired me likewise to make her a golden girdle, and moreover to adorn this work with jewels and many pretty inventions of figures and other things of that kind, which was done accordingly. The duke came from time to time to the wardrobe, and took great pleasure in seeing the work carried on, and in talking to me about it. When I found myself somewhat recovered of the pain in my back, I caused clay to be brought me, and whilst the duke was passing by, I took his likeness, making a head of him much bigger than the life; his excellency was highly pleased with this work, and conceived so great a liking to me, that he told me it would be highly agreeable to him, if I would work at his palace; and he would look out for apartments of a proper size for me, which I might have fitted up with furnaces, and whatever else I had occasion for as he took the highest delight in such things. I told his excellency that it was impossible, for I should not then finish my work in a hundred years.

The dutchess was lavish of her caresses to me, and would gladly have had me work for her alone, and neglect the statue of Perseus and every thing else. I who saw myself possessed of this vain shadow of favour, knew to a certainty that my inauspicious star could not long bear to see me happy, and would soon involve me into new perplexities; for every moment I had present to my thought the great injury I had done myself in endeavouring to better my condition. I speak with regard to the affairs of France; the king could not digest the mortification which my departure had occasioned him; and yet he would have been glad that I had returned, but would have me look upon it as an obligation. I thought however that I had many good reasons to decline being any way submissive, for I apprehended that had I descended so low as to serve the French again with humility and complaisance, they would have said, that I knew myself to be in fault, and have given credit to certain calumnies that were invented against me. I therefore stood upon the punctilio of honour, and wrote to France like a man that knew himself to be in the right. This conduct of mine was highly agreeable to my two young disciples: For in my letters to them I boasted of the many works I was employed in, by two great personages, who were the chief in power, in the city of Florence, where I drew my first breath. As soon as they had received this intelligence, they repaired to the king, and persuaded his majesty to make over to them my castle, in the same manner he had granted it to me. The king, who was a prince of great generosity and honour, would never comply with the presumptuous demands of these two young villains; for he began to perceive the malicious tendency of their application; however that he might seem to

afford them some faint hopes, and induce me to return quickly, he caused a treasurer of his, named signor Guiliano Buonaccorsi, a citizen of Florence, to write to me in a style somewhat angry: the purport of the letter was, that if I desired to retain the reputation of a man of honour, which I had before enjoyed; as I had quitted the kingdom without any cause, I should give an account of all I had done for his majesty. Upon the receipt of this letter, I was so highly pleased, that I could not have wished for one couched in terms more to my mind. When I sat down to write, I filled nine leaves of common paper, and in these I minuted all the works that I had been concerned in, with the several accidents that had befallen me in the prosecution of those undertakings, and all the money expended on them, which was paid by two clerks, and one of the king's treasurers, and signed by the different persons through whose hands it had passed, some of whom had contributed their property, and others their labour; I added, that I had not pocketed a single farthing of the money, and that when I had finished my work, I was not in the least a gainer; that I had carried with me to Italy only a few favours and promises, truly worthy of his majesty; and though I could not boast of having acquired by my works any thing more than certain salaries settled upon me by his majesty, for my support, and there remained above seven hundred crowns of my salary still due, which I never touched, but left behind me in France, that they might be remitted me to defray the charges of my return; yet as I had discovered that ill offices had been done me by certain malevolent persons, excited thereto by envy (though the truth will always be prevalent) I appealed to his most Christian majesty. I am not

excited, said, I, by avarice; I am conscious of having done for your majesty more than ever I engaged to perform, and never received the promised reward. I desire nothing more in this world than to remain in the opinion of your majesty, a man of a fair and unblemished character, such as I have always shewn myself; and if your majesty retains the smallest doubt of my integrity, I will, upon your signifying the least desire of it, return to France to give an account of my conduct at the hazard of my life. But as I saw myself held in so little consideration, I did not care to make a new offer of my services, being sensible that I can earn a livelihood in any part of the world; and whenever I am written to, I shall send a proper answer. There were in that letter several other particulars worthy of so great a monarch, and all tending to vindicate my honour. Before I sent it away, I carried it to the duke, who was highly pleased with the perusal; I then put it in the post-office, directed to the cardinal of Ferrara.

About this time Bernardone Baldini, who was employed by his excellency as broker in the jewelling business, had brought with him from Venice a large diamond of above thirty five carats; he had with him Antonio di Vittorio Landi, whose interest it likewise was to prevail on the duke to purchase it; this diamond had its upper face terminating in a point; but as it did not appear to have lustre required in a jewel of that sort, the owner got the point made flat, which greatly spoiled the beauty of the stone. Our duke, who was passionately fond of jewels, amusing that rogue Barnardaccio with hopes that he would purchase the diamond, and as the fellow was desirous of having solely to himself the honour of putting a trick upon the duke of Flo-

rence, he never spoke a word of the affair to his partner Antonio Landi. This Antonio had been intimate with me ever since we were boys, and as he saw I was so familiar with the duke, he one day called me aside (it was then about noon, and this happened near the new market) and spoke to me thus, Benvenuto I know full well that the duke will shew you a diamond which he seems to be desirous of purchasing; you will see a very fine stone; endeavour to promote the sale of it: this I could sell for seventeen thousand crowns; I am positive his excellency will ask your advice, and it is very possible he may purchase it. In short, Antonio was very sanguine in his expectations of being a great gainer by this diamond; I promised, that in case it was shewn me, and my opinion asked, I should speak of it to the best of my judgment, without saying any thing to depreciate its value. The duke, as I have observed above, came every day into my work-shop, and staid several hours: somewhat above a week from the day that Antonio Landi had the above conversation with me, his excellency shewed me the diamond in question, one day after dinner; I knew it, by the tokens given me by Antonio Landi, both with regard to its form and its weight; and because, as I have observed above, this diamond was of a water somewhat obscure, and they had, upon that account, furnished it up anew, I seeing of what sort it was, would certainly have advised the duke not to purchase it: therefore, when his excellency shewed it me, I asked him what he would have me say of it? as jewellers have two different methods of appreciating a jewel; one, after a great man had bought it, and another, in setting a price upon it, in order to excite him to be a purchaser. The duke



told me that he had bought it, and only wanted to know my opinion concerning it. I thereupon declared my sentiments of the diamond to the best of my judgment. He desired me to consider well the beauty of the great streaks in it. I made answer, that his excellency was quite mistaken in considering that as a beauty, for it was nothing else but a flattened point. Upon my uttering these words, the duke, who perceived what I said was true, with a look of great displeasure bid me examine the jewel carefully, and give my opinion concerning its value. I imagined, that as Antonio Landi had valued it at seventeen thousand crowns, the duke might have given, at most, fifteen thousand for it; and therefore, as I saw that he was offended at my speaking the truth, I thought it advisable to favour his mistake; and so, returning him the diamond, said, it cost you eighteen thousand crowns. Upon my speaking thus he made an exclamation of surprise, and said, Surely you can be no connoisseur in jewels. I answered, My lord, your are mistaken; endeavour to continue in a good humour with your diamond, and I will endeavour to understand these things better; at least be so good as to let me know how much it cost you, that I may the better enter into your excellency's method of purchasing these things. The duke thereupon said to me with a sneer, it cost five and twenty thousand crowns and upwards, and so went away. During this conversation were present Giovan-Paollo and Dominic Poggini, both goldsmiths; and Bacchiaca the embroiderer, who worked in the next apartment, ran to us upon hearing it. I then said, that I would not have advised him against purchasing it, but that Antonio Landi had a week before offered it to me for seventeen thousand crowns; and I

apprehended that I might have bought it for fifteen thousand, and less ; but that the duke was resolved to keep up the reputation of his jewel at any rate. However, as Antonio Landi had set so inconsiderable a value upon it, I thought it was shocking, nay I could hardly believe it possible, that Bernardone should so grossly impose upon the duke. Yet I took no further notice of the affair, but smiled at the good prince's simplicity. Having already sketched the figure of the great Medusa, as I have observed above, I had made the bony part of iron, then formed it of earth about half an inch thick, I caused it to be well baked, and over it I put a covering of wax, in order to finish it completely in the manner it was to remain. The duke, who came several times to see me, was greatly disgusted at its not being of bronze, and would have had me send for some master to cast it.

His excellency was constantly speaking in the most advantageous terms of my genius and skill ; whilst his steward was as constantly watching for some opportunity to hurt me. This man, though a native of Prato, the natural enemy of our state, was, by a surprizing turn of fortune, only because he had been the pedagogue of duke Cosmo of Medici, invested with a command over the city guards, and all the public offices in Florence. As I before observed, he was always upon the watch to do me some injury, but found it a very difficult matter to form his plans with any probability of success.

## CHAPTER IV.

*The author disgusted at the behaviour of the Duke's servants, takes a trip to Venice, where he is greatly caressed by Titian, Sansovino, and other ingenious artists—After a short stay, he returns to Florence, and resumes his business—He goes on but slowly with his Perseus, for want of proper assistance, and makes his complaint to the Duke—The Dutchess employs him in the jewelling way, and wants to engross his whole time, but he expresses a desire of signalising himself, and with that view chooses to finish his Perseus.*

HAVING reflected maturely on the villainy as well as power of that wicked pedagogue, I thought it most advisable to keep for a time out of the way of such diabolical machinations: so in the morning early I put into the hands of my sister, jewels and effects, to the value of pretty near two thousand crowns; and mounting on horseback, bent my course towards Venice, carrying with me my journeyman Bernardino di Mugello. Upon my arrival at Ferrara, I wrote to his excellency the duke, that though I had left Florence without taking leave of him, I would return without being sent for. When I came to Venice, I reflected upon the variety of means by which my adverse fortune persecuted me, but as I

found myself in good health and spirits, I resolved to struggle with it as usual. Thus I passed my time very agreeably in that beautiful and opulent city, where I visited the great painter Titian, and Signor Jacopo Sansovino, an excellent statuary and architect of Florence, who had a considerable pension from the senate of Venice. As we had been acquainted in our youth, both at Rome and Florence, I was highly caressed by these two ingenious artists. The day following I met Signor Lorenzo de Medici, who took me by the hand, and received me with the greatest affection imaginable; we had known one another in Florence, when I was concerned in stamping coins for duke Alexander, and afterwards at Paris, when I was in the service of the king of France. He had resided at the house of Signor Julianò Buonaccorsi, and because he did not know where else to go for amusement, without running a considerable risk, he passed a great deal of his time at my house, in observing the process of the great works above mentioned. On account therefore of our former acquaintance, he took me by the hand, and carried me with him to his own house, where was Signor Priore degli Strozzi, brother to Signor Picro. They were very merry, and asked how long I proposed staying at Venice, thinking that I intended to return to France. I told them the affair that had made me quit Florence and added, I proposed returning to that city in two or three days, to enter again into the service of my sovereign the grand duke. When I had expressed myself thus, Signor Priore and Signor Loranzo looked so sternly at me, that I was quite disconcerted; they then said, You would act much more wisely in returning to France, where you have both money and friends; if you go back to

Florence, you will lose all your interest in France, and at Florence you will only meet with disgusts and disappointment. I made them no answer, but set out the next day with all possible secrecy, taking the road to Florence. In the mean time, the diabolical plot that had been hatched against me, was pretty well over, for I had wrote the duke a full account of the affair, and the reason of my quitting Florence. I waited on him without ceremony, and, though he discovered some displeasure at first, he at last turned to me with a placid countenance, and asked me where I had been? I made answer, that my heart had always been with his excellency, though a certain troublesome affair had obliged me to ramble for a while. His good humour growing upon him, he desired me to give him some account of Venice; so we entered into conversation for a while, till at last he bid me mind my work, and finish the statue of Perseus. I returned to my house in high spirits, which caused great joy to my family, that is, to my sister and her six daughters; I then resumed my work, and continued it with all possible expedition. The first thing I cast in bronze, was the great head of his excellency in my workhouse, when I had the pain in my back, which has been mentioned above. This work gave high satisfaction, and I made it with no other view, than to try the earth used in casting bronze; and though I perceived that the admirable Donatello had cast his works in bronze with the earth of Florence, it appeared to me that he had great difficulty to struggle with. Thinking therefore that this proceeded from the ill condition of the earth, before I set about casting my Perseus, I chose to make these previous experiments, by which I found the earth to be good, though the nature of it was not understood



by the great Donatello ; for I observed that he had laid under great difficulties in finishing his pieces. Thus did I contrive, by great art, to make a compound earth, which was of infinite service to me : with this I cast the head ; but as I had not yet made a furnace, I used that of Signor Zanobi of Pagno Campanajo ; and, seeing that the head had come out very exact, I immediately set about making a little furnace in the shop, which the duke had caused to be erected, according to my own plan, in the house he had granted me. After making the furnace with all possible expedition, I set about casting the statue of Medusa, that frightful female figure which is now seen under the feet of Perseus. And as this was a matter of great difficulty, I found it necessary to make use of all the precautions I had learnt, to avoid committing any blunder. Thus had I the most full and compleat success at the first time of my casting in this furnace, and the bronze came out of it so neat and clean, that my friends did not think I should have occasion to retouch it. There are German and French artists, who boast themselves possessed of admirable secrets, which enable them to cast bronze without being obliged to clean and furbish it up with hammers and chissels, as the great artists of antiquity did formerly, and as modern statuaries had done likewise, I mean, such of the moderns as understood the art of working in bronze. This work highly pleased the duke, who came to see it cast at my house, and encouraged me to exert myself ; but the unquenchable envy of Bandinello had such power, (for he was constantly misrepresenting me to his excellency) as to persuade him that though I cast some of those figures, I should never be able to put the whole of them together, because I was quite a novice in the art, and his excel-

lency should take care how he threw away his money. These words had such an effect upon my noble employer, that part of the money allowed me for journeymen was retrenched, insomuch that I found myself under the necessity of coming to an explanation with his excellency. One morning I took occasion to wait his coming, and addressed him in these terms ; My Lord, I am not assisted in my business as my occasions require ; I therefore begin to suspect that your excellency doubts my being able to perform my promise ; yet I must repeat it to you again, that I desire to finish the work in a manner far more masterly than the model, as I have already promised. Having thus explained my mind to his excellency, when I perceived that all I said had no effect upon him, as he returned no answer, I immediately conceived such resentment, and fell into so violent a passion, that I began again to rate the duke, and said to him, My lord, this city has been indeed the school of every ingenious art : but as soon as a person has made himself known, and learnt something, If he desires to be a credit to his country, and his illustrious prince, he would do well to seek for work elsewhere. I am convinced, my lord, that this is true ; I know that your excellency has been acquainted with Donatello and Lionardo da Vinci, and at present is so with the admirable Michael Angelo Buonarotti ; men who, by their genius, add greatly to your excellency's glory and renown ; I also hope that I shall contribute my share towards it ; therefore, my good lord, suffer me to depart. But take care never to let Bandinello move from hence ; rather let him have greater supplies than he requires of you ; for, if he should go abroad, so great are his presumption and ignorance, that he would probably bring this illustrious school into discredit. Dis-

miss me then, my lord; the only reward I desire for my past labours is your excellency's good will. The duke seeing me thus resolute, turned to me with some emotions, and said, Benvenuto, if you are willing to finish the work, you shall want no assistance. I made answer, that I desired nothing more, than to shew these detractors of my reputation, that I had a spirit to perform my promise. Having left his excellency, I received some little assistance; but found myself under a necessity of opening my purse, as I was desirous that my work should go on pretty briskly. In the evening I often went to his excellency's wardrobe, where Dominico and John Poggini his brother were at work upon a golden vase for the dutchess, of which mention has already been made, and upon a golden girdle. His excellency likewise caused a little model to be made of a pendant, in which was to be set that great diamond which Bernardone and Antonio Landi persuaded him to purchase; and though it was what I should willingly have declined, the duke used such insinuations and arguments, that he used to prevail upon me to work there till ten o'clock at night, and, by the same alluring arts, would fain have persuaded me to work also by day: this I could never consent to for which I at last thought that his excellency was angry with me. As I happened one day to come a little later than usual, the duke said to me, You are *Malvenuto*\*. I answered, My Lord, that is not my name, for I am called Benvenuto; and as I apprehend that your excellency jests with me, I shall say no more. The duke replied, that he was not in jest, but quite in earnest; adding, that he advised me to take care

\* An Italian word, which signifies *Ill-come*.

how I behaved ; for I had come to his knowledge that I had availed myself of his favour to wrong several persons. I requested his excellency to name a man that I had ever wronged. He immediately flew into a passion, and said, Go and restore what you have had from Bernardone ; that is one man you have wronged. I answered, My Lord, I thank you, and beg you would just hear me say four words in my defence : it is true he lent me a pair of old scales, two anvils, and three hammers, which goods I fifteen years ago desired his agent George of Cortona to send for, whereupon George came for them himself : if your excellency finds that I ever had any thing else from any person either in Rome or Florence, punish me with the utmost severity. The duke seeing me very warm, become quite mild and gentle, and said, that those who have not done amiss should not be reprimanded ; so that if the case were as I represented it, I should continue to be as much in favour as ever. I then made answer, The knaveries of Bernardone force me to request and entreat your excellency to tell me sincerely, what you gave for the great diamond with the flattened point ; for I hope to make you sensible of this rogue's motive for doing me ill offices with your excellency. The duke replied, The diamond cost me twenty-five thousand crowns ; why do you ask ? Because my lord, on such a day and at such an hour, Antonio di Vitterio Landi, speaking to me of this diamond, valued it at sixteen thousand crowns ; your excellency now knows what sort of a bargain you have made, and for the truth of what I say, I appeal to Dominico Poggini and Giovan-Paolo his brother, who are here present, for I immediately apprized them of the affair ; but since that, I never said a word more about it, be-

cause your excellency told me that I did not understand jewels, which made me think you had a mind to keep up the reputation of your purchase. I would have you to know, my lord, that I do understand jewels, and that I profess myself a man of principle, and of as much honour as any person living; I shall never attempt to rob you of eight or ten thousand crowns at a time, but rather try to earn them. I agreed to serve your excellency as a sculptor, a goldsmith, a stamper of coins, and never as a tale-bearer: what I say to you at present, is in my own defence, and in the presence of several persons of worth, that your excellency may no longer believe what is said by Bernardone. The duke thereupon fell into a passion, and sent for Bernardone, who was obliged to fly to Venice, and Antonio Landi with him. I again waited on his excellency, and said to him, My lord, all I told you is true, and all that Bernardone mentioned concerning the goods I borrowed is false, and you would do well to examine the affair to the bottom. Upon my expressing myself thus, the duke turned about to me, and said, Benvenuto, live like a man of honour, and fear nothing. The affair ended here, and I never said another word concerning it.

I went about finishing the jewel, and when I had done it, I carried it to the dutchess who told me she set as high a value upon my work, as upon the diamond which Bernardaccio had made the duke purchase; she then desired me to fasten it to her breast with my own hand; and upon her giving me a large pin, I pinned it on, and departed very much in her good graces. I afterwards heard they caused it to be set again by a German or some other foreigner, because Bernardone had said that the simplest manner of setting it was best. Dominico and Giovan-



Paolo Poggini goldsmiths and brothers, worked, as I think I have already informed the reader, in his excellency's wardrobe, after my designs, upon certain little cases of gold, carved with historical figures in basso relievo, and other things of importance. I one day took occasion to say to the duke, My lord, if you would enable me to keep several journeymen, I would stamp the coins at your mint, as likewise medals of your excellency, in which I should rival, if not surpass those of the ancients: for since I was employed in making medals for Pope Clement the seventh, I have improved so considerably in this art, that I come much nearer to perfection than I did at that time. I am even able to surpass the coins which I stamped for duke Alexander, though they are still looked upon as very fine. I would likewise make great vases of gold for you, as I did for the great king Francis the first, who afforded me all manner of assistance in my business, and I never lost my time, either in making Colossues or other statues. To this the duke made answer, Work, Benvenuto, and I will take care to see you properly supplied. Yet he never gave me any assistance, or supplied me with conveniencies for working. One day his excellency sent me several pounds of fine silver, and said that was from his silver-mines, desiring me to make him a beautiful cup with it. As I did not chuse to neglect my Perseus, and yet had great desire to serve the duke, I put it into the hands of a fellow, called Pier de Martini, the goldsmith, who set about it most awkwardly, and did not go on with it, so that I lost more time by employing, him than if I had undertaken it myself. Having been thus plagued and disappointed for several weeks, when I saw that Piero would neither work at it himself, nor get other to do it,

I made him return it; and it was with great difficulty I could get back the body of the vase, which, as I have observed above, was unskilfully begun, and the remainder of the silver which I had put into his hands. The duke having heard something of the affair, sent for the vase and the models, without ever telling me why or wherefore: he however from my designs got people to work for him at Venice and other places, but was extremely ill served. The dutchess was incessantly telling me, that I should work for her in the jewelling way; to this I as constantly answered, that it was well known to all the world in general, and to all Italy in particular, that I was a master of the jeweller's business; but that Italy had not hitherto seen a piece of sculpture of my carving; and that several statuaries, provoked at my vying with them, called me, in derision, the upstart in sculpture; however, I had a mind to shew them, that I had the skill of an old and experienced sculptor, if God should so far indulge me as to enable me to exhibit my statue of Perseus in his excellency's grand square. So I went home, worked hard both day and night, and no more made my appearance at the palace. But that I might not be entirely deprived of the dutchess's favour, I got certain little vases of silver made for her, about the size of a little two-penny pot, adorned with fine figures in the antique taste: upon my carrying her these little vases, she gave me the kindest reception imaginable, and paid me for the gold and silver that I had used in making them. At the same time I solicited her excellency's interest, and begged she would inform the duke, that I was not properly assisted in my great work; and that she would likewise advise him to be upon his guard against the malicious insinuations of Bandinello, by

which he hindered me from finishing my *Perseus*. Upon my expressing myself thus in a plaintive tone, the dutchess, with a gesture which shewed she spoke her real sentiments, exclaimed, Sure the duke should by this time know what a worthless fellow that *Bandinello* is !

## CHAPTER V.

*The jealousy of the malicious Bandinello excites him to throw continual difficulties in our author's way, which greatly obstructs the progress of his work.—In a fit of despair he goes to Fiesole, to see a natural son of his, and meets with Bandinello at his return.—At first he resolves to kill him, but, upon seeing his cowardly behaviour, alters his mind; and, recovering his former tranquillity, goes on with his work.—Conversation between him and the Duke, concerning an atique Greek statue of Ganimede.—Account of some marble statues of Celina's, viz. Apollo, Hyacinthus, and Narcissus—He meets with an accident by which he had like to have lost one of his eyes.—Manner of his recovery.*

I NOW staid almost constantly at home, and hardly ever went to the ducal palace, but worked with the utmost assiduity to finish my statue. I was obliged to pay my workmen out of my own pocket; for the duke having caused them to be paid about eighteen months for me by Lattanzio Gorini, at last grew tired of it, and ordered payments to be stopped: I thereupon asked Lattanzio why he did not pay my men as usual; He answered, with the shrill voice of a gnat, and using some odd, fantas-

tic gestures with his spider's hands, Why don't you get your work finished? It is the general opinion that you will never finish it. I replied in a passion, uttering an horrid imprecation against him, and all those that thought I would not complete it. Thus in deep despair, I carried home my unfortunate statue of Perseus, not without shedding tears; for I could not help recollecting the flourishing state in which I had lived in Paris, when in the service of the munificent king Francis, by whom I was abundantly supplied with every thing; whereas here I was hardly supplied at all. This consideration had such an effect upon me, that I was several times upon the point of forming a desperate resolution to leave the place abruptly. Once in particular, I mounted a little nag, and taking a hundred crowns with me, set out for Fiesole, to see a natural son, whom I had a nurse with a gossop of mine, wife to one of my journeymen. I found the child in good health, and, though I was greatly dejected, and uneasy in my mind, I embraced him; when I was for departing, he would not let me go, but held me fast with his little hands, at the same time crying and bawling so loud, that it was something surprising in an infant not above two years old. However, as I had formed a resolution, in case I should meet with Bandinello, who went every evening to visit his farm above St. Dominico, to fall upon him, and punish his insolence, I disengaged myself from my child, without minding his cries or his sobs, and bent my course towards Florence. Just as I arrived at the square of St. Dominico, Bandinello entering it on the other side, I came up to him with a full resolution to do a bloody piece of work upon the spot. I looked up, and saw him upon a little mule, which appeared no bigger than an ass, and



he had with him a boy about ten years of age. As soon as he perceived me, he turned as pale as death, and trembled all over; I, who knew what a cowardly wretch he was, cried out to him, fear nothing, vile poltroon, I do not think you worth striking. He gave me a look of the most abject pusillanimity, and returned no answer. I thereupon resumed just and virtuous sentiments, and returned thanks to the Almighty, for preventing me from perpetrating the rash action I intended. Being in this manner delivered from the diabolical phrenzy by which I had been agitated, I recovered my spirits, and said within myself, if God should be so favourable to me, as to enable me to finish my work, I hope thereby to kill all my enemies, and wreak a much greater and more glorious vengeance, than if I had satiated my fury upon one alone. So with this good resolution I returned home, somewhat easier in my mind.

In three days time I received information that the nurse had smothered my only son, which occasioned me as poignant a grief as ever I had felt. Hearing the news I fell upon my knees and returned thanks to God in these terms, with a profusion of tears, according to custom: Lord, thou gavest that infant to me, and thou hast deprived me of him: for all thou hast done, I return thanks to thy Divine Majesty. Thus though the excess of my grief had quite disconcerted and confounded me, I made a virtue of necessity, and comforted myself the best I could. About this time a young man had quitted Bandinello's service, whose name was Francis, son to Matteo Fabbro. This young man applied to me for work, and I readily employed him, to clean the statue of Medusa, which was already cast. The same person, about a fortnight after,

told me, that he had spoken to his master meaning Bandinello, who desired him to tell me, that if I were willing to make a marble statue, he would furnish me with a fine block. I instantly answered, tell him I accept his offer, and it may prove an unlucky piece of marble for him, for he is always provoking me, and does not remember what passed between us upon the square of St. Dominico; let him know I insist upon having the marble by all means: I never speak ill of him, while he is always backbiting and traducing me; nay, I verily believe, that your coming to work with me was a mere pretext, and that in fact you were sent by him to be a spy upon my conduct: so go and tell him I will have the marble in spite of him, and you may return again to his service. As I had not, for several days, made my appearance at the ducal palace, I went thither one morning through a sudden caprice, and the duke had just done dinner when I entered. I was afterwards given to understand, that the duke had that morning spoke a great deal of me, and in terms highly advantageous to my character; in particular, he had extolled me highly for my masterly manner of setting jewels. When the dutchess saw me, she sent Signor Sforza to call me, and upon my presenting myself before her excellency, she requested me, to set a little rose diamond for her in a ring; adding, that she intended to wear it constantly. She gave me the measure of her finger, together with the diamond, which was worth about a hundred crowns, and begged I would be as expeditious as possible. The duke thereupon said to the dutchess, it must be acknowledged that Benvenuto was formerly unrivalled in this branch, but now that he has dropped it, I apprehend it would be too much trouble for him to

make such a ring as you require ; therefore beg you would not break in upon his time with this trifling affair, which is now so much out of his way. I returned the duke thanks for his obliging speech, and requested him to let me do the dutchess this little piece of service so I undertook the job, and finished it in a few days. The ring was intended for the little finger ; I therefore made four small figures of boys, with four little grotesques, which completed the ring, and I added to it a few fruits and ligatures in enamel, so that the jewel and the ring appeared admirably suited to each other. I carried it directly to the dutchess, who told me, in the most obliging manner, that I had acquitted myself extremely well, and that she would not forget me. This ring she sent as a present to king Philip ; and afterwards was constantly employing me in one job or other, but in so complaisant and obliging a manner, that I always exerted myself to the utmost to serve her, though I saw but very little of her money. And yet, God knows, I wanted money very much ; for I earnestly desired to finish my Perseus, and I had found some young men to assist me, whom I paid out of my own pocket. I then began to make my appearance at court more frequently than I had done for some time past.

One holiday I went to the palace immediately after dinner, and entering the hall in which the great clock stands, I saw the door of the wardrobe open. As I presented myself, the duke beckoned to me, and with great complaisance addressed me thus : You are welcome to court (alluding to my name of Benvenuto) take this little chest, which was sent me as a present by Signor Stefano of Palestine ; open it, and let us see what it contains. I immediately opened it, and answered the duke : This,

my lord, is the figure of a little boy in Greek marble, and is indeed a very extraordinary piece; I don't remember ever having seen amongst the antiques so beautiful a performance, or one of so exquisite a taste; I therefore offer your excellency to restore its head, arms and feet; and make an eagle for it, that it may be called a Ganimede, and though it is by no means proper for me to patch up old statues, as that is generally done by a sort of bunglers in the business, who acquit themselves very indifferently; the excellence of this great master is such, that it powerfully excites me to do him this piece of service. The duke was highly pleased to find the figure had such merit, and asked me several questions about it: Tell me, said he, Benvenuto, in what precisely consists the extraordinary excellence of this great master, which excites in you such wonder and surprize? I endeavoured the best I could to give him an idea of the extraordinary beauty of the statue, of the great genius, skill, and admirable manner of the artist, conspicuous in his work; topics on which I enlarged a long time, and that with the greater earnestness, as I perceived that his excellency took pleasure in listening to me. Whilst I amused him so agreeably with my conversation, a page happened to open the door of the wardrobe, and just as he came out, Baudinello entered. The duke seeing him, appeared to be in some disorder, and asked him, with a stern look what he was about? Bandinello, without making him any answer, immediately fixed his eye on the little chest, in which the above-mentioned statue was very plainly to be seen; then shaking his head, he turned to the duke, and said, with a scornful sneer, My Lord, this is one of those things I have so often spoken to your excellency about; depend upon it, the an-

cients knew nothing of the anatomy of the parts, and for that reason their works abound with errors. I stood silent, and gave no attention to what he had advanced, but on the contrary, turned my back to him. When the fool had made an end of his nonsensical harangue, the duke, addressing himself to me, said Benvenuto, this is quite the reverse of what you a while ago so much boasted, and seemed to prove by so many specious arguments; so endeavour to defend your own cause. To these words of the duke, which were spoken with great mildness, I answered, My lord, your excellency is to understand that Baccio Bandinello is a compound of every thing that is bad, and so he has always been; insomuch, that whatever he looks at, is, by his fascinating eyes, however superlatively good in itself, immediately converted into something superlatively evil: but I, who am inclined to good alone, see the truth through a happier medium; so that all I mentioned a while ago to your excellency, concerning that beautiful figure, is strictly and literally true, and what Bandinello has said of it is purely the result of his own innate malevolence. The duke seemed to hear me with pleasure, and whilst I expressed myself thus, Bandinello wreathed himself into a variety of contortions, and made his face, which was by nature very ugly, quite hideous by his frightful grimaces: immediately the duke quitting the hall, went down to the ground-floor apartments, and Bandinello after him. The gentlemen of the bed-chamber pulling me by the cloak, encouraged me to go after him; so we followed the duke till he sat down in one of the rooms, and Bandinello and I placed ourselves, one on his right, the other on the left. I remained silent, and many



of the duke's servants, who stood round, kept their eyes fixed on Bandinello, tittering when they recollected what I had said to him in the hall above. Bandinello again began to chatter, and said, that when he exhibited his Hercules and Cacus to the public, he really believed there were a hundred lampoons published against him, which contained all the vilest ribbaldry, that could enter into the imagination of a rabble. To this I answered, My lord, when your great artist, Michael Angelo Buonarotti, exhibited his sacristy, in which so many beautiful figures are to be seen, the members of the admirable school of Florence, which loves and encourages genius wherever it displays itself, published above an hundred sonnets, wherein they vie with each other, which should praise him most. And as Bandinello deserved all the ill that was said of his work, so Michael Angelo merited the highest encomiums that were bestowed on his performance. Upon my expressing myself thus, Bandinello was incensed to such a degree, that he was ready to burst with fury, and turning about to me, said, What faults have you to find with my statues? I answered, I will soon tell them, if you will have but patience to hear me. He replied, Tell them then. The duke and all present listened with the utmost attention; I began by premising, that I was sorry to be obliged to lay before him all the blemishes of his work, and that I was not so properly delivering my own sentiments, as declaring what was said of it by the ingenious school of Florence. However, as the fellow at one time said something disobliging, at another made some offensive gestures with his hands or his feet, he put me into such a passion, that I behaved with a rudeness which I should otherwise have avoided.

The ingenious school of Florence, said I, declares what follows: If the hair of your Hercules were shaved off, there would not remain skull enough to hold his brains; with regard to its face, it is hard to distinguish whether it be the face of a man, or that of a creature somewhat between a lion and an ox; it discovers no attention to what it is about; and it is so badly set upon the neck, with so little art and so ungraceful a manner, that a more shocking piece of work was never seen; his great brawny back resembles the two pummels of an ass's pack-saddle; his breast and their muscles bear no similitude to those of a man, but appear like a sack of melons, as he leans directly against the wall, the small of the back has the appearance of a bag filled with long cucumbers; it is impossible to conceive in what manner the two legs are fastened to this distorted figure, for it is hard to distinguish upon which leg he stands, or upon which he exerts any effort of his strength, nor does he appear to stand upon both, as he is sometimes represented by those masters of the art of statury, who know something of their business; it is plain too, that the statue inclines more than one third of a cubit forward, and this is the greatest and most insupportable blunder, which pretenders to sculpture are guilty of; as for the arms, they both hang down in the most awkward and ungraceful manner imaginable, and so little art is displayed in them, that people would be almost tempted to think you never saw a naked man in your life: the right leg of Hercules and that of Cacus touch at the middle of their calves, and if they were to be separated, not one of them only, but both would remain without a calf in the place where they touch: besides, one of Hercules's feet is quite buried and

the other seems to have fire under it. Thus I went on, but the man could no longer stay with patience, to hear the defects of his figure of Cacus enumerated; one reason was, that what I said was true, the other, that I made the duke perfectly acquainted with his real character as well as the rest of those present, who discovered the greatest symptoms of surprize imaginable, and began to be sensible that all I said was true. The brutish fellow thereupon said, O thou slanderer! dost thou say nothing of my design? I answered, that he who drew a good one, could never work ill, and that I was convinced his design was of a piece with his work. Seeing that the duke and all present shewed, by their sarcastic looks and gestures, that they thought the censure of his performance to be just, he let his insolence entirely get the better of him, and turning about to me with a most brutish physiognomy, uttered these base words, Say no more, vile wretch. When he expressed himself thus, the duke and all present frowned upon him, and discovered symptoms of the highest displeasure. I finding myself so cruelly insulted, was hurried away by passion, and cried out to him aloud, Foolish man, you pass the bounds of decency. Though I endeavoured to put a good face upon the matter, I was ready to burst with vexation, that one of the most worthless wretches upon earth should have the impudence to affront me in so gross a manner, in the presence of a great prince. But the reader should at the same time take it into consideration, that on this occasion the duke was affronted, and not I; for had I not been in his august presence, I should have killed the villain upon the spot. Perceiving that the noble personage present never once ceased laughing, this low buffoon, to divert them

from deriding him, began to change the subject, and said, This Benvenuto here goes about making it his boast, that I promised him a block of marble. How, said I, interrupting him, did not you send word by your journeyman Francis Matteo Fabbro, that if I chose to work in marble, you would make me a present of a piece? Did I not accept the offer, and don't I still require of you the performance of your promise? He replied then, Depend upon it you shall never have it. Thereupon I, who was incensed to the highest pitch by his former abuse, being suddenly deprived of my reason, as it were, forgot for a moment that I was in the presence of the duke, and cried out to him in a passion, in plain terms, either send the marble to my house, or think of another world, for I will infallibly send you out of this: but recollecting immediately that I was in the presence of so great a prince, I turned with an air of humility to his excellency, and said, My lord, one fool makes a hundred; the folly of this man had made me forget your excellency's glory, and myself, for which I humbly beg your pardon. The duke, addressing himself to Bandinello, asked him whether it was true that he had promised me the marble? Bandinello answered, it was. The duke, thereupon said to me, Return to your work, and take a piece of marble to your liking. I replied, that he had promised to send me one to my own house. Terrible words passed on the occasion, and I insisted upon receiving it in that manner and no other.

The next morning a piece of marble was brought to my house, and I asked the porters who it came from; they told me that it was sent by Bandinello, being the piece of marble which he had promised

me, I ordered it to be carried into my shop, and took it in hand that moment, and whilst I was working upon it, I made my model: so eager was I to be employed in marble, that I could not have the patience to take the necessary time for making a model, with all the care and judgment that our art requires: perceiving the marble crack, I several times began to repent that I had undertaken the job; however, I made what I could of it, I mean, the Appollo and Hyacinthus, which, though imperfect, are still to be seen at my shop. Whilst I was employed in this manner, the duke came to my house, and said to me several times, let the bronze alone for a while, and work a little in marble, that I may see how you do it. I immediately took the tools which are used in working upon marble, and began to apply them to the purpose. The duke enquiring about the model I had made for this work, I told him, that the marble was quite broken, but I would warrant to make something of it notwithstanding; for though I could not resolve upon a model, I would still work on, and do the best I could. The duke hearing this, caused a piece of Greek marble to be conveyed with the utmost expedition from Rome, to enable me to restore the antique Ganimede, which had given rise to the dispute between me and Bandinello. When the Greek marble was come, I considered with myself that it was a sin to break it into pieces, for the sake of making and repairing the head, arms, and other parts of the Ganimede; I therefore provided myself with another block, and to this piece of Greek marble I made a little waxen model, to which I gave the name of Narcissus: and as the marble had two holes, which were above a quarter of a cubit in depth, and full



two inches broad, I had recourse to the attitude which is seen in that part, to prevent the ill effect of those holes, so that I struck them out of my figure. But for many years past, that it had rained constantly upon the marble, and these holes were always left full of water, the moisture had penetrated to such a degree, that the marble became quite weak and almost rotten in the upper hole, and appeared to rise above a cubit and a half in my shop, after the great inundation of the Arno. And as this piece of marble was placed upon a square piece of wood, the water above-mentioned made it turn about, by which accident the breasts of it were broken, so that I was obliged to mend them; and that the cleft might not appear where they were fastened on, I placed there a garland of flowers, which is still seen upon the breast of the figure. This job I did at certain hours before day, or else upon holidays only, that I might not delay my great work of the statue of Perseus. As I was one morning amongst others, preparing some tools to work at it, there darted a little bit of steel into my right eye, and entered so far into the pupil, that it was impossible to get it out, so that I was in very great danger of losing that eye: several days after, I sent for Mr. Raphael, a surgeon, who took two live pigeons, and making me lie on my back, with a little knife opening a vein in each of their wings, so that the blood ran into my eye, and I was thereby greatly relieved. In the space of two days, the bit of steel issued from my eye, and I found that I had received considerable ease, and in a great measure recovered my sight. The feast of St. Lucia approaching, I made a golden eye of a French crown, and got it offered to that Saint, by one of the daughters

of my sister Liperata, a girl about ten years of age: in this manner did I testify my gratitude to God and to St. Lucia. For some time after I discontinued working upon the Narcissus, but went on with my Perseus, notwithstanding all the difficulties I have enumerate, for I had formed a resolution to finish it, and then to leave Florence.

## CHAPTER VI.

*The Duke having some doubt of Cellini's skill and abilities in casting figures of bronze, enters into a conversation with him upon the subject—Cellini gives a sufficient proof of his extraordinary skill, by casting a beautiful bronze statue of Perseus and Andromeda, which he successfully finished, to the surprise of all the world, whilst he lay under every discouragement, and had the greatest difficulties to struggle with.*

AS I had been particularly successful in casting my Medusa, I made a model of my Perseus in wax, and flattered myself that I should have the same success in casting the latter in bronze, as I had had with the former. Upon its appearing to such advantage, and looking so beautiful in wax, the duke, whether somebody else put it into his head, or whether it was a notion of his own, as he came to my house oftener than usual, once took occasion to say to me, Benvenuto, this statute cannot be cast in bronze, it is not in the power of your art to compass it. Hearing him express himself in that manner, I discovered great resentment, and said, My lord, I know that your excellency places very little confidence in me, and that you have but too good an opinion of those who speak ill of me; or else

you do not understand things of this nature. Scarce did he suffer me to utter these words, when he answered, I profess understanding them, and I do understand them perfectly. I replied, You may understand them as a prince, but not as an artist; for if you had that skill in these matters, which you think you have, you would believe me, upon account of the fine bronze head which I cast for your excellency, and which was sent to the Elbe; as also for having restored the beautiful figure of Ganymede, a work that gave me infinite trouble, inso-much that it would have been easier for me to have made a new one; likewise for having cast the Medusa, which stands here before your excellency, a performance of immense difficulty, in which I have done what no man ever did before me, in this most laborious art. Consider, my lord, I have constructed a new sort of a furnace, in a manner unknown to other artists; for besides many other particulars and curious inventions to be seen in it, I have made two issues for the bronze; for otherwise that difficult and distorted figure could never come out, and it was only by means of my skill and invention that it came out as well as it did: and do not imagine that every common artist could have done as much. Know likewise, my lord, that all the great and difficult undertakings that I have been employed in by the renowned king Francis, were attended with admirable success, purely on account of that king's generous encouragement of my labours, in providing me with every thing I wanted, and allowing me as many hands as I required; at certain times I had under me above forty journeymen, all of my own choosing; and this was the reason that I finished so many undertakings in so short a time. Therefore, my lord, take my advise and afford me the assis-

tance that I want, for I have great hopes of producing a work that will please you: whereas if your excellency discourages me, and does not supply me with the necessary helps, it is impossible that either I, or any man living can give birth to any thing worth notice. The duke scarce had patience to hear me out, but sometimes turned one way, sometimes another: and I was quite in despair when I recollected the circumstances in which I had lived in France: at last he all on a sudden said, tell me Benvenuto, how is it possible that this fine head of Medusa which Perseus holds aloft in his hand, should ever come out cleverly? I immediately answered: it is clear, my lord, that you are no connoisseur in statuary, as your excellency boasts yourself, for if you had any skill in the art, you would not be afraid of that fine head's not coming out, but would express your apprehensions concerning the right foot, which is at such a distance below. The duke, half angry, addressing himself to some noblemen who were with him, said: I really believe it is a finesse of Benvenuto's to contradict and oppose every thing he hears advanced; then turning to me, as it were, in derision, in which he was imitated by all present, he expressed himself: I am willing to have patience to hear what reason you can alledge, that can possibly induce me to believe what you affirm. I made answer, I will give your excellency a reason so satisfactory, that you will be able to conceive the full force of it; I thereupon began in these terms: you know my lord, that the nature of fire is to fly upwards; I therefore assure you that the head of Medusa will come out perfectly well: but as it is not the property of fire to descend, and it is necessary to force it down six cubits by art, hence I affirm, that it is impossi-



ble that yon foot should ever come out ; but it will be an easy matter for me to make a new one. The duke thereupon said, why did you not think of contriving to make that foot come out as well as the head ? I must then, answered I, have made the furnace much bigger, to be able to cast a piece of brass as thick as my leg, and with that weight of hot metal I should have made it come out by force ; whereas my brass which goes down to the feet of those six cubits that I mentioned is not above two inches thick ; therefore there is no great harm done, for it can soon be set to rights : but when my mould is something more than half full, I have good hopes, that from that half standing upon the fire which mounts up by a natural property, the heads of Perseus and Medusa will come out admirably ; and this you may depend upon. When I had laid before the duke all these reasons, with many more which I for brevity sake omit, he shook his head and departed.

I now took courage of myself, and banished all those thoughts, which from time to time occasioned me great inquietude, and made me sorely repent my ever having quitted France, with a view of assisting six poor nieces at Florence, which good intention proved the source and origin of all the misfortunes that afterwards befel me. However, I still flattered myself, that if I could but finish my statue of Perseus, all my labours would be converted to delight, and meet with a glorious and happy reward. Thus having recovered my vigour of mind, I with the utmost strength of body and of purse, though indeed I had but little money left, began to purchase several loads of pine-wood from the pine-grove of the Serristori, hard by Monte Lupo ; and whilst I was waiting for it, I covered

my Perseus with the earth which I had prepared several month before hand, that it might have its proper seasoning. After I had made its coat of earth (for the technical term in our business is coat) covered it well, and bound it properly with irons ; I began by means of a slow fire to draw off the wax, which melted away by many vent holes ; for the more of these are made, the better the moulds are filled ; and when I had entirely stript off the wax, I made a sort of fence round my Perseus, that is, round the mould above-mentioned, of bricks, piling them one upon another, and leaving several vacuities for the fire to exhale at. I next began to put on the wood, and kept a constant fire for two days and two nights, till the wax being quite off, and the mould well baked, I all on a sudden began to dig a hole to bury my mould in, and observed all those find methods of proceeding that are prescribed by our art. When I had completely dug my hole, I took my mould, and by means of levers and good strong cables directed it with care, and suspended it a cubit above the level of the furnace, so that it hung exactly in the middle of the hole ; I then let it gently down to the very bottom of the furnace, and placed it with all the care and exactness I possibly could. After I had finished this part of my task, I began to make a covering of the very earth I had taken off, and in proportion as I raised the earth, I made vents for it, which are a sort of tubes of baked earth, generally used for conduits, and other things of a similar nature. As soon as I saw that I had placed it properly, and that this manner of covering it, by putting on those small tubes in their proper places it was likely to answer, as also that my journeyman thoroughly understood my plan, which was very different from that of all

other masters, and I was sure that I could depend upon them, I turned my thoughts to my furnace; I had caused it to be filled with several pieces of brass and bronze, and heaped them upon one another in the manner taught us by our art, taking particular care to leave a passage for the flames, that the metal might the sooner assume its colour and dissolve into a fluid. Thus I with great alacrity excited my men to lay on the pine-wood, which because of the unctuousness of the resinous matter that oozes from the pine-tree, and that my furnace was admirably well made, burned at such a rate, that I was continually obliged to run to and fro, which greatly fatigued me. I however bore the hardships; but to add to my misfortune, the shop took fire, and we were all very much afraid that the roof would fall in and crush us; from another quarter, that is, from the garden, the sky poured in so much rain and wind, that it cooled my furnace. Thus did I continue to struggle with these cross accidents for several hours, and exerted myself to such a degree, that my constitution, though robust, could no longer bear such severe hardship, and I was suddenly attacked by a most violent intermitting fever: in short, I was so ill that I found myself under a necessity of lying down upon the bed. This gave me great concern, but it was unavoidable; I thereupon addressed myself to my assistants, who were about ten in number, consisting of masters who melted bronze, helpers, men from the country, and journeyman that worked in the shop, amongst whom was Bernardino Manellini di Mugello, that had lived with me several years. After having recommended it to them all to take proper care of my business, I said to Bernardino, my friend be careful to observe the method which I have

shewn you, and use all possible expedition, for the metal will soon be ready ; you cannot mistake : these two worthy men here will quickly make the tubes, with two such directors you can certainly contrive to manage matters ; and I have no doubt but my mould will be filled compleatly : I at present find myself extremely ill, and really believe that in a few hours this severe disorder will put an end to my life. Thus I left them in great sorrow, and went to bed : as soon as I had lain down, I ordered the maids to carry victuals and drink into the shop for all the men, and told them I did not expect to live till the next morning. They encouraged me notwithstanding, assuring me that my disorder would not last, as it was only the effect of my having over fatigued myself : in this manner did I continue for two hours in a violent fever, I every moment perceived it to increase, and was incessantly crying out, I am dying, I am dying. My house-keeper, whose name was Mona Fiore da Castel del Rio, was one of the most sensible women in the world, and thoroughly devoted to my interest ; she rebuked me for giving way to vain fears, and at the same time attended me with the greatest kindness and care imaginable : however, seeing me so very ill, and terrified to such a degree, she could not contain herself, but shed a flood of tears ; which she endeavoured to conceal from me. Whilst we were both in this deep affliction, I perceived a man enter the room, who in his person appeared to be as crooked and distorted as the letter S ; this man began to deliver himself in these terms, with a tone of voice, as dismal and melancholy as those who exhort and pray with persons who are going to be executed ; alas ! poor Benvenuto, your work is spoiled, and the misfortune admits

of no remedy. No sooner had I heard the words uttered by this messenger of evil, but I cried out so loud, that my voice might be heard as far as the empyreum, and got out of bed. I began immediately to dress, and giving either kicks or cuffs to the maid-servants and the boy as they came to help me on with my clothes, I complained bitterly in these terms: O you envious and treacherous villains, this is a piece of villainy schemed and contrived on purpose; but I swear by the living God that I will sift it to the bottom, and before I die, give such proofs who I am, as shall not fail to astonish the whole world. Having huddled on my cloaths, I went with a mind boding evil to the shop, where I found all those whom I had left so alert, and in such high spirits, standing in the utmost confusion and astonishment: I thereupon addressed them thus; listen all of you to what I am going to say; and since you either would not or could not follow the method I pointed out, obey me now, that I am present; my work is before us, and let none of you offer to oppose or contradict me, for such cases as this require activity and not counsel. Hereupon one Alexander Lastricati had the assurance to say to me; look you, Benvenuto, you have undertaken a work which your art cannot compass, and which is not to be effected by human power. Hearing these words, I turned about in such a passion, and so bent upon mischief, that both he and all the rest unanimously cried out to me: give your orders, and we will all second you in whatever you command; we will assist you as long as we have breath in our bodies. These kind and affectionate words they uttered, as I firmly believe, in a persuasion that I was upon the point of expiring. I went.



directly to examine the furnace, and saw all the metal in it concreted: I thereupon ordered two of the helpers to step over the way to Capretta Beccajo, for a load of young oak, which had been above a year drying, and been offered me by Maria Ginevera, wife to the said Capretta. Upon his bringing me the first bundles of it, I began to fill the grate: this sort of oak makes a brisker fire than any other wood whatever; but the wood of elder-trees and pine-trees is used in casting artillery, because it makes a mild and gentle fire. As soon as the concreted metal felt the power of this violent fire, it began to brighten and glitter. In another quarter I made them hurry the tubes with all possible expedition, and sent some of them to the roof of the house, to take care of the fire, which through the great violence of the wind had acquired new force; and towards the garden I had caused some tables with pieces of tapestry and old cloaths to be placed, in order to shelter me from the rain. As soon as I had applied the proper remedy to each evil, I with a loud voice, cried out to my men bestir themselves and lend a helping hand; so that when they saw that the concreted metal began to melt again, the whole body obeyed me with such zeal and alacrity, that every man did work enough for three. Then I caused half a mass of pewter to be taken, the weight about sixty pounds, and thrown upon the metal in the furnace, which with the other helps, as the brisk wood fire and stirring it sometimes with iron and sometimes with long poles, soon became completely dissolved. Finding that I had effected what seemed as difficult as to raise the dead, I recovered vigour to such a degree that I no longer perceived whether I had any fever, nor

had I the least apprehension of death. Suddenly a loud noise was heard, and a glittering of fire flashed before our eyes, as if it had been the darting of a thunderbolt. Upon the appearance of this extraordinary phenomenon, terror seized on all present, and on none more than myself. This tremendous noise being over, we began to stare at each other, and perceived that the cover of the furnace had burst and flown off, so that the bronze began to run : I immediately caused the mouths of my mould to be opened, but finding that the metal did not run with its usual velocity, and apprehending that the cause of it was that the quality of the metal was consumed by the violence of the fire, I ordered all my dishes and porringers, which were in number about two hundred, to be placed one by one before my tubes, and part of them to be thrown into the furnace ; so that all present perceiving that my bronze was completely desolved, and that my mould was filling, with joy and alacrity assisted and obeyed me : I for my part was sometimes in one place, sometimes in another, giving my directions, and assisting my men, before whom I offered up this prayer ; O God, I address myself to thee, who of thy divine power didst rise from the dead, and ascend in glory to heaven ; I acknowledge in gratitude this mercy that my mould has been filled ; I fall prostrate before thee, and with my whole heart return thanks to thy divine Majesty. My prayer being over, I took a plate of meat which stood upon a little bench, and eat with a great appetite ; I then drank with my whole corps of journeymen and assistants ; and went joyful and in good health to bed ; for there were still two hours of night ; and I rested as well as if I had been troubled with no manner of disorder.

My good house-keeper, without my having given any orders, had provided a young capon for my dinner; when I arose, which was not till about noon, she accosted me in high spirits, and said merrily, is this the man that thought himself dying! It is my firm belief, that the cuffs and kicks which you gave us last night, when yor were quite frantic and bedeviled, frightened away your fever, and that apprehending least you should fall upon it in the same manner, it chose to betake itself to flight. So my whole poor family having got over such panicks and hardships, without delay procured earthen vessels to supply the place of the pewter dishes and porringers, and we all dined together very cheerfully; indeed I do not remember having ever in my life eat a meal with greater satisfaction, or with a better appetite. After dinner all those who had assisted me in my work, came and congratulated me upon what had happened, returned thanks to the divine Being, for having interposed so mercifully in our behalf, and declared that they had in theory and practice learnt such things as were adjudged impossible by other masters. I thereupon thought it allowable to boast a little of my knowledge and skill in this fine art, and pulling out my purse, satisfied all my workmen for their labour. My mortal enemy Pier Francesco Ricci the duke's steward, was very eager to know how the affair had turned out; so that the two whom I suspected of being the cause of my metal's concreting in the manner above related, told him that I was not a man, but rather a downright devil, for I had compassed that which was not in the power of art to effect; with many other surprising things which would have been too much even for the devil. As they greatly

exaggerated what had passed, perhaps with a view of excusing themselves, the steward wrote to the duke, who was then at Pisa, an account still more pompous, and more replete with the marvellous, than that which the workman had given him. Having left my work to cool, during two days after it was cast, I began gradually to uncover it; I first of all found the Medusa's head, which had come out admirably by the assistance of the vents, as I had observed to the duke, that the property of fire was to fly upwards: I proceeded to uncover the rest, and found that the other head, I mean that of Perseus, was likewise come out perfectly well; this occasioned me still greater surprize, because, as it is seen in the statue, it is much lower than that of Medusa, the mouth of that figure being placed over the head and shoulders of Perseus: I found that where the head of Perseus ends, all the bronze was out, which I had in my furnace; this surprised me very much, that there should not be any thing over and above what is necessary in casting; my astonishment indeed was raised to such a degree, that I looked upon it as a miracle immediately wrought by the Almighty. I went on uncovering it with great success, and found every part turn out to admiration, till I reached the foot of the right leg, where I perceived the heel come out; so proceeding to examine it, and finding that the whole was filled up, in one respect I was glad, in another sorry, because I had told the duke it would not have that effect: continuing however to uncover it, I found that not only the toes were wanting, but part of the foot itself; so that there was almost one half deficient. This occasioned me some new trouble, but I was not displeas'd at it, because I could thereby convince the duke that I understood my

business thoroughly: and though there had come out a great deal more of that foot than I thought there would, the reason was that in consequence of the several accidents that had happened, it was heated much more than it could have been in the regular course of business; especially as the pewter plates had been thrown into the furnace a thing never done before. I was highly pleased that my work had succeeded so well, and went to Pisa to pay my respects to the duke, who received me in the most gracious manner imaginable; the dutchess vied with him in kindness to me, and though the steward had written them an account of the affair, it appeared to them much more wonderful and extraordinary, when I related it myself. Upon my speaking to him of the foot of Perseus, which had not come out (a circumstance of which I had apprized his excellency) I perceived that he was filled with the utmost astonishment, and told the affair to the dutchess in the same terms that I had before related to him. Finding that these great personages were become so favourable to me, I availed myself of the opportunity to request the duke's permission to go to Rome; He granted it in the most obliging terms, and desired me to return speedily, in order to finish my statue of Perseus; he at the same time gave me letters of recommendation to his ambassador Averardo Serristori. This happened in the beginning of the pontificate of pope Julio de Monti.



## CHAPTER VII.

*Cellini receives a letter from Michael Angelo concerning a bronze head of Bindo Altoviti—He sets out for Rome with the duke's permission in the beginning of pope Julio de Monti's pontificate—Having paid his respects to the pope he waits upon Michael Angello, and endeavours to persuade him to enter into the duke's service—Michael Angelo declines it on account of being then employed in the building of St. Peter's—Cellini returns to Florence, and meets with a cold reception from the duke, occasioned by ill offices done him by the steward—Matters are accomodated between him and his excellency, but he soon falls into a like disgrace with the dutchess, by disclosing a secret concerning her pearl necklace to the duke—Particular account of the purchase of the above necklace—Bernardone is successful in prevailing upon the duke to buy it for the dutchess, contrary to Cellini's opinion—Her Highness becomes Cellini's implacable enemy.*

BEFORE my departure from Florence, I directed my men to proceed with the work according to the method I had taught them. The cause of my journey was this: having made a bust of Bindo Antonio Altoviti as big as the life, I sent it to him,

to Rome: and he put it into a cabinet richly furnished with antiques and other things of value, but an unfit repository for pieces of sculpture, or even for pictures; the fact is that the windows were under those fine works, so that being placed in a wrong light, they did not appear to that advantage which they would have done, if they had been in a proper situation. One day Bindo happened to be standing at his door, when Michael Angelo Buonarrotti the sculptor was passing by; the former desired the latter to come in and take a view of his cabinet of curiosities. Michael Angelo having complied with his request, asked Bindo who the artist was, that had hit off his likeness in so masterly a manner? you must know, added he, that I am highly pleased with this head, though there are very fine antiques near it; but if those windows were above instead of being underneath, they would appear more conspicuous, and your bust would, even amongst so many noble pieces of antiquity, claim a high degree of reputation. No sooner had Michael Angelo left his friend Bindo, but the former wrote me a very polite letter, to this purport. My dear friend, Benvenuto, I have many years known you for one of the ablest jewellers in the world, and I now find you have equal abilities as a sculptor; you must know that signor Bindo Altoviti shewed me his bust in bronze, and told me that it was done by you: I was highly pleased with the execution, but it gave me great uneasiness to see it placed in a disadvantageous light; had it but been properly situated, it would have appeared to have been the master-piece it is. This letter abounded with the most affectionate and most favourable expressions concerning myself; so before I set out for Rome, I shewed it to the duke, who perused

it with great pleasure, and said to me, *Benvenuto*, I would have you write to him, and if you can prevail on him to come to Florence, I will make him one of the eight and forty. Accordingly I wrote him a most affectionate epistle, expressing the duke's sentiments as above, and saying a hundred times more than I had been commissioned to say; however to avoid committing any error, I shewed it to his excellency before I sealed it, and told him that perhaps I had promised him too much. He made answer, that I had done very right, that Michael Angelo deserved still more than I had promised him, and that he proposed conferring on him more considerable favours. This letter of mine Michael Angelo never answered, at which neglect the duke was highly offended. Upon my arrival at Rome, I went to lodge at the house of Bindo Altoviti: he immediately told me that he had shewn his bust in bronze by my hands to Michael Angelo, who had bestowed upon it the highest praises imaginable; so we talked together of this affair for a considerable time. This man had in his hands one thousand two hundred crowns of mine which he borrowed of me to make up the sum of five thousand two hundred that he had lent to the duke; thus four thousand were his own, and mine were in his name. He regularly paid me the just interest for my share, which was the reason that I undertook to make his bust: when he first saw it in wax, he sent me fifty crowns by Giuliano Paccalli, his clerk; I did not chuse to take the money, but sent it back by the messenger, and afterwards told Bindo himself, that it was sufficient for me if he would keep that money with the rest of mine in his hands, and I received the interest of it. But now I perceived that he had bad intentions, and

instead of caressing me according to custom, he behaved quite rudely; though he entertained me in his house, he was never in a good humour, but quite the reverse. However we settled the affair in a few words: I gave up my payment for making the bust and even what the bronze had stood me in, and agreed that Bindo should keep my money in his hands, and pay me fifteen per cent, upon it during my natural life. One of the first things I did at Rome was to go and kiss the pope's toe; I talked for some time with his holiness, and found him much disposed to favour me, nay I verily believe that disgusted with the difficulties I had to encounter at Florence I should have again settled with his holiness's consent at Rome; but I found that the Florentine ambassador counteracted me. I went to Michael Angelo Buonarotti, and repeated to him the contents of the letter I had sent him from Florence by the duke's orders. He told me he was then employed in building St. Peter's church, and for that reason could not quit Rome: I then said to him that since he had determined upon the model of the structure, he might leave his pupil Urbino in his place, who would punctually follow his directions, and at the same time I made him several new promises in the duke's name. He thereupon looked at me attentively, and asked with a smile, whether I was pleased myself with my situation at the court of Florence? though I assured him I was perfectly well satisfied, and that I met with the kindest treatment imaginable, he seemed to be thoroughly acquainted with all my grievances; and his final answer was that he could not think of leaving Rome. I remonstrated to him, that he would act most laudably in returning to his own country, which was governed by a most just prince,

and one who loved men of genius and abilities, the most of any potentate the world had ever produced. I mentioned that he had an apprentice, called de Urbino, who had lived with him several years, rather as a servant boy, than in any other capacity; this was evident enough, for the lad had learned nothing at all of the business. Upon my pressing Michael Angelo so hard, that he had not a word to say in his defence, he turned all on a sudden to his apprentice, as it were to ask his opinion of the matter. Urbino with rustic gestures and a rough voice, said, I will never quit Michael Angelo, till I have laid him out, or he me. I could not help laughing at the simplicity of these words, so departed without ceremony.

After I had transacted my business with Bindo Altoviti so unsuccessfully as to loose my bust of bronze, and to entrust my money into his hands during life, I saw clearly what the principles of merchants are, and returned to Florence very much dissatisfied with my expedition. I waited on his excellency, who was then at the castle upon the bridge of Rifredi. By the way I met with Signor Pier Francesco Ricci, the steward, and on making an offer to accost him, with the civilities which custom prescribes, he exclaimed with the utmost surprize, So, you are returned! His surprize still continuing, he clapped his hands, told me that the duke was at the castle; then turned his back to me, and marched off. I could not possibly conceive why the fool behaved so oddly. I repaired however to the castle, and entering the garden where the duke happened to be walking. I saw his excellency at a distance; at the sight of me, he discovered several symtoms of great surprize, and signified to me by a nod, that I might go about my business. I, who had flattered



myself that he would caress me rather more than at my departure, seeing him behave thus extravagantly, returned very much disgusted to Florence, and, resuming my business, endeavoured to bring my works to a conclusion with all possible expedition. Not being able to conjecture the cause of the cold reception I had met with, I carefully observed in what manner I was looked upon by Signor Sforza, and others of the duke's intimates; and took it into my head to ask signor Sforza what was the meaning of this indifference; the latter answered laughing, Benvenuto, endeavour to act the part of a man of honour, and fear nothing. Several days after he managed an interview for me with the duke, who received me with a great many odd civilities, and asked me what was doing at Rome: I entered into a conversation with him, the best I could, and gave him an account of the bust of bronze that I had made for Bindo Altoviti, with what happened upon the occasion. I perceived that he listened to me with the greatest attention imaginable, so I told him all that had passed between Michael Angelo Buonarotti and me, at which he discovered some resentment, but at the same time could not help laughing at the simplicity of Urbino: he said that the loss would be Michael Angelo's and not his. I made my bow, and retired. Doubtless Pier Francesco the steward had done me some ill office with the duke, which proved unsuccessful, for God is always a friend to truth, and as he has hitherto extricated and preserved me from the greatest dangers, I hope he will continue his protection to the end of my life, in the course of which I have gone through such a sea of trouble and distress, yet proceed forward undaunted in my career, with his assistance; nor am I terrified by the

frowns of fortune, or the influence of inauspicious stars, so long as God favours me with his all-sufficient grace.

Now, gentle reader, thou art to hear a most dreadful accident. I made all the haste I could to finish my work, and in the evening went to the duke's wardrobe, where I used to assist the goldsmiths employed by his excellency, most of whose works were after my designs. The duke took great delight in seeing them busy, and in conversing with me, which induced me sometimes to go there in the day-time. One day as I happened to be in his wardrobe, his excellency came thither according to custom, and the rather, when he knew that I was there. He began to chat with me, and I made myself so agreeable to him, that he appeared to be in a better humour than usual. All on a sudden one of his secretaries entered the room, and whispered him in the ear, as if about some business of great importance: the duke rose, and they went together into another apartment. As the dutchess had sent to see what the duke was doing, the page told her that he was talking and laughing with Benvenuto, and we were very merry; her excellency thereupon entered the wardrobe, and not finding the duke, sat down by us: perceiving that it would be sometime before we had done work, she turned to me with great good humour, and shewing me a fine string of large pearls, asked me what I thought of it. I praised it highly. Her excellency then said, I want the duke to buy it for me; so, Benvenuto, praise it in his presence as much as possible. Hearing the dutchess express herself in this manner, I discovered my sentiments to her, with the most profound respect; in these terms: I thought that string of pearls belonged to your ex-

cellency, and that it was proper that I should say no ill of any thing that was yours ; but at present I am under a necessity of speaking my mind. You must then understand, that by my knowledge in these matters I can discover many defects in these pearls, and would by no means advise you to buy them. She answered, The merchant offers them to me for six thousand crowns, and if they had not some defects, they would be worth twelve thousand. If the string of pearls, replied I, were ever so fine, I would not advise any one to give above five thousand crowns for it ; because pearls are not like jewels ; in process of time they lose their value, but jewels lose nothing by growing old, and therefore are a proper purchase. The dutchess somewhat piqued, said she had a fancy for these pearls, therefore begged I would praise them to the duke, and even make no scruple of telling an untruth to serve her, and I should find my account in it. I, who was always a lover of truth and an enemy to falsehood, being then under a necessity of telling lies, lest I should forfeit the favour of so great a princess, repaired with these curst pearls to the apartment to which the duke was then retired : as soon as he saw me ; he said : Benvenuto, what are you about ? I pulled out the string of pearls, and made answer : my lord, I am come to show you a fine string of the choicest pearls : then bestowing the highest praises on them, I added buy them, my lord, buy them by all means. The duke told me, he did not chuse to buy them, as they were not perfect. To this I answered, Excuse me, my lord, these surpass other pearls in beauty. The dutchess was behind us, and could not but overhear what I said ; so that I praised the pearls up to the skies. The duke turning to me with great good humour,

said, Benvenuto, I know you are an excellent judge of these things, and if the pearls are so very fine, I should not think much of purchasing them, as well to please the dutchess, as to have them in my possession. As I had begun to tell lies, I plunged deeper and deeper into the mire, contradicting every thing the duke said, and depending upon the dutchess, who, I hoped, would in time reward me. I was to receive two hundred crowns for making the bargain, for the dutchess had hinted to me as much : but I resolved not to touch a farthing of the money, lest the duke should think I was acting in this manner with an interested view. He repeated to me again, that he looked upon me as a perfect judge of these things, and begged that if I were the man of principle he took me to be, I would speak the truth. Thereupon the tears came into my eyes, and I said to him, My lord, if I tell you the truth, I make the dutchess my mortal enemy ; I shall in consequence be under a necessity of leaving this city, and my statue of Perseus, which I had promised the illustrious school of Florence, will become the scoff of my enemies : I therefore beg your excellency would consider my case. The duke perceiving that I had spoken before by compulsion, desired me to put my confidence in him and fear nothing. I asked him how it was possible to conceal the affair from the dutchess ? He bid me tell her, that the pearls were quite eclipsed by a casket of diamonds. Upon his expressing himself in that manner, I told him my real opinion of the pearls, and declared that they were not worth above two thousand crowns. The dutchess perceiving that we were quiet, for we lowered our voices as much as we possibly could, came forward, and said to the duke, My dear lord, I beg you would buy me

that string of pearls, because I have taken a particular fancy to it, and your great artist Benvenuto says, he never saw a finer. The duke told her he would not buy it upon any account. Why, my dear lord, replied the dutchess, will not your excellency buy that string of pearls to oblige me? Because, answered the duke, I do not chuse to throw away my money. How is it throwing away your money, replied the dutchess, if Benvenuto here, in whom you have so much confidence, has assured me it would be cheap at upwards of three thousand crowns? The duke then said, Madam, Benvenuto has told me, that if I buy it, I shall throw away my money, because those pearls are neither round nor equal, and there are many old ones amongst them; to convince yourself that what I say is true, do but observe that pearl there, and that other, look there, and there again; in a word, they are by no means for my purpose. Upon his delivering himself in that manner, the dutchess gave me a very severe look, and, shaking her head with a menacing air, left the apartment. I was now strongly tempted to hurry away to some other part of the world; but as my Perseus was in a manner finished, I could not think of neglecting to take it out of the mould. Let the reader but consider my case, and seriously reflect on the cruel dilemma to which I was reduced. The duke had given orders to his servants to suffer me constantly to pass through the apartments, and to have access to his excellency, wherever he happened to be; whilst the dutchess had laid her injunctions upon the very same servants, to turn me out whenever I came to the palace. These fellows, as soon as they saw me coming, would quit their posts, and order me to turn back; but they took care to act thus, unperceived by the duke; for if his excel-



lency saw me first, he either called to me, or made me a sign to enter. The dutchess sent for that Bernardone, of whose knavery she had so bitterly complained, and recommended the affair of the pearls to him, in the same manner she had done to me; Bernardone thereupon told her, that her excellency might depend upon him. The rogue went into the duke's presence, with the above-mentioned string of pearls in his hand. The duke no sooner set his eyes upon him, but he bid him begone. The knave, with his odd, affecting tone of voice, with which he drawled thro' his nose in a ridiculous manner, said, Ah, my dear lord, buy that string of pearls for the poor lady, who cannot live without it. He added many more foolish expressions, and at last quite disgusted the duke, who ordered him either to be gone instantly or he would give him a slap in the face. The fellow knew very well what he was about, for if, by means of flattery, or any other artifice whatever, he could prevail upon the duke to make that purchase, he was sure of gaining the duchess's good graces, and of receiving several hundred crowns for making the bargain: he continued therefore to fawn and flatter, and the duke gave him several good sound boxes on the ear, to make him quit the place. So smartly were the boxes given, that his cheeks not only became red, but the tears burst into his eyes. The fellow notwithstanding persisted in his importunities, and cried, Ah, my lord, your faithful servant would fain discharge his duty, and willingly submit to bear any severe treatment, provided the poor lady may be indulged in her desire. The duke at last, quite tired of the man, being also weary with cuffing him about, and no longer able to resist his love for the dutchess, whom he chose to humour in every thing, said to

Bernardone, get you gone, and make a bargain for the pearls, for I am willing to do any thing to please the dutchess. From this whole transaction, the reader may form a judgment of the fury of adverse fortune, in persecuting a poor man, and the infamous manner in which she favours the base and worthless. I totally forfeited the good graces of the dutchess, which was in great measure the cause of my being deprived of the duke's favours, and the scoundrel Bernardone was not only paid for treating about the pearls, but became a favourite both of the duke and dutchess. Hence it is evident, that when fortune bears us a grudge, it avails nothing to act agreeably to the dictates of virtue and honour.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*The Duke wages war with the inhabitants of Sienna—Cellini is employed, among others, in repairing the fortification of Florence—Dispute between him and the Duke, concerning the best method of raising fortifications—Quarrel between Cellini and a Lombard captain, who had treated him disrespectfully—Discovery of some curious antiques in the country of Arezzo—The mutilated figures are repaired by Cellini—He works privately in the Duke's apartment at these figures, but meets with opposition from the dutchess—Extraordinary scene between him and her highness—He refuses to gratify her, in placing some bronze figures in her apartment, which widens the breach between them—Quarrel between him and Bernardone the goldsmith—He finishes his famous statue of Perseus and Andromeda, which is exposed to the publick view in the great square, and meets with universal approbation—The Duke in particuar is highly pleased with it—Cellini is invited over to Sicily by the Viceroy, but refuses to quit the Duke's service—With a mind replete with joy at his great success, he undertakes a pilgrimage of a few days to Vallombrosa and Camaldoli.*

ABOUT this time the war of Sienna broke out, and the duke chusing to fortify Florence, consigned the gates of the city to the care of the most skilful engineers and architects. Upon this occasion, the

gate leading to Prato, with the little gate of Arno, leading to the mills, fell to my share ; to the cavalier Bandinello was given the gate of St. Friano ; to Pasqualino of Ancona, the gate of St. Pier Gattolini ; to Giuliano di Baccio d'Agnolo, a carpenter, the gate of St. George ; to Patriciho, a carpenter, the gate leading to St. Nicholas ; to Francesco da St. Gallo, the sculptor, surnamed Margolla, was consigned that which leads to Croce ; and to Giambatista, commonly called Jasso, was given the Pinti gate ; in like manner other bastions and gates were distributed amongst other engineers, whose names I cannot now recollect, nor is it very material. The duke, who was a man of abilities, and of a respectable character, when uninfluenced by others, went his rounds about the city ; and after his excellency had well surveyed it, and determined upon his measures, he sent for Lattanzio Gorini, his paymaster ; an office in which Lattanzio particularly delighted ; his excellency then ordered him to take plans of several methods he had formed to repair the fortifications of his capital. Accordingly Lattanzio sent each of us a plan of the gate he was to fortify. When I received mine, perceiving that the method was altogether defective, I went with it in my hand to his excellency, in order to shew him my objections ; but I no sooner began to speak, than he turned about to me in a violent passion, and told me, he would readily allow me the superiority in statuary, but in this business of fortification, I must in my turn yield to him : therefore I was to follow the plan which he had sent me. To this short admonition I answered in the gentlest terms possible, and said, My lord, even with regard to the method of making beautiful statues, I have learned something from your excellency, for we have always had dis-

putes on the subject ; in like manner with regard to this article of fortifying your city, which is a matter of much greater consequence than casting statues, I beg your excellency would vouchsafe to hear me, that by conversing with you upon the subject, you may instruct me in what manner I am to serve you. By these insinuating expressions, the duke was prevailed on to enter into a conversation with me ; I made it appear, by clear and convincing reasons, that this method of fortification would never answer ; upon which he desired me to go and draw a plan myself, and he would see how he liked it. I drew two plans, according to the right method of fortification, and carried them to his excellency, who then distinguishing the true from the false method, said to me, with great good humour, Go and fortify the two gates your own way, I have no further objection. I thereupon began the work with all possible expedition.

There was upon guard at the gate of Prato, a Lombard captain, a robust, lusty man, who spoke in a rough brutish manner, and was exceeding ignorant and presumptuous : this man questioning me concerning what I was about, I with great mildness shewed him my plans, and found it a very difficult matter to make him conceive the method I intended to observe in my operations. The stupid mortal now shook his head, now turned himself one way, and now another, often changed the position of his legs, twisted his mustachoes, which were very long, frequently pulling the fold of his cap over his eyes, and uttering oaths and imprecations, telling me, he did not understand this puzzling affair of mine. Being at last quite tired of the fool, I desired him to leave it to me, who understood it ; so I turned my back to him, at which being somewhat provoked, he cri-



ed out, So it seems, Sir, you and I must have a tilt together. I immediately answered him in a violent passion, for he had quite exasperated me, It will be less trouble to me to run you through the body, than to make the bastion for this gate. So we both at the same instant clapped our hands to our swords; but scarce had we drawn, when a considerable number of gentlemen, as well Florentines as courtiers from other parts of the country, came and interposed; most of them blamed my adversary, telling him that he was in the wrong, that I was a man capable of making him pay dear for what he did, and that if the duke came to know what had passed between us, the captain would have reason to repent it. He then went about his business, and I began to work at my bastion. When I had settled in what manner it was to be erected, I repaired to the other little gate of Arno, where I met with a captain from Cesena, one of the politest men I ever knew of his profession: in his behaviour he had all the gentleness of a lady, and yet upon occasion he shewed himself to be one of the bravest, and even most resolute men living. This gentleman observed my method of proceeding so attentive, that I could not help taking notice of it; he desired to know what I was about, and I with great complisance explained my plan to him: in a word, we vied with each other in politeness and civilities, and I acquitted myself much better in making this bastion than the other. When I had almost finished my bastions, Piero Strozzi's men made an irruption into the district of Prato, which threw the inhabitants into such a panic, that they all instantly quitted it; on which account all the carriages of that country were loaded, every man removing with his effects to the city. As the number of carts occasioned their interrupting

each other, upon observing the great confusion, I bid the guards at the gate take care there happened no disturbance there, as had been the case at the gates of Turin; for if they should have occasion to let down the portcullis, it might very possibly be unable to do its office, and remain suspended upon one of those carts. The fool of a captain, of whom mention has been made above, hearing these words began to give me abusive language; I answered him in the same stile, so that we had a worse quarrel than before: we were however parted. Having compleated my bastions, I received a good round sum of crowns, that I little expected, which proved of great service to me, and I returned with alacrity to finish my Perseus.

About this time some curious antiquities were discovered in the district of Arezzo, among which was the chimera, viz. that lion of bronze, to be seen in the apartments next to the great hall of the palace; with it was likewise found a considerable quantity of small statues of bronze, covered with earth or rust, and each of them wanting the head, hands or feet; the duke took pleasure in cleaning these statues himself, with certain little chissels. I happened one day to have occasion to speak to his excellency, when he put into my hand a small hammer, with which I struck the little chissels which the duke held in his hand, and in that manner the figures were separated from the earth and rust that covered them. Whilst we thus passed several evenings together, the duke gave me employment, which was to supply the limbs that were wanting to the little statues; and he took such delight in these small labours of the chissel, as to make me work even by day, and if I were tardy in going to him, he would send for me. I se-

veral times gave his excellency to understand that this made me neglect my Perseus, and would be attended with several bad consequences: the first of these, and which give the greatest uneasiness, was that the length of time which my work required, would tire his excellency, as it did in fact; the next was that I had such a number of workmen, and my not being in the way, gave rise to many inconveniences; for they not only spoiled my work, but grew quite idle and negligent. The duke therefore contented himself with my going to him after sun-set: and I had so conciliated his affection, that when I visited him in the evening, he caressed me more than ever. About this time the new apartments were built towards the menagery, so that his excellency desiring to retire to a private room, got a little chamber made up for him in these new buildings; and hither he ordered me to come to him through his wardrobe, which I did with the greatest secrecy, by means of little certain obscure passages on the other side of the great hall. But in a few days the dutchess deprived me of this convenience, by causing all these passages to be shut up, so that every evening that I came to the palace, I was obliged to wait a considerable time, and as she was ill, I never came without disconcerting her. Both for this and another cause she had taken such a dislike to me, that she could not so much as bear the sight of my person. Though I had so much trouble, and received so many disgusts, I with patience continued my visits, and the duke had given such express orders, that as soon as ever I knocked at those doors, they were opened to me, and without being question, I was suffered to go wherever I would. It sometimes happened that as I unexpectedly entered those apartments, I found

the dutchess busy, when she would fly into such a passion with me, that I used to be quite frightened, and she would constantly say, will you never have done mending those little statues? your coming at present is quite disagreeable to me. My answer was always couched in the gentlest terms: my illustrious and only patroness, there is nothing I desire more than to serve you with fidelity and the most perfect obedience; and as these works which the duke has employed me in, will last several months, let me know, madam, whether it is your pleasure that I should come here no more; if it be, I will come no more upon any account, let who will send for me; and even should the duke himself send, I will say, I am indisposed, and will not obey his order. Her reply was, I do not desire you to come no more, neither do I say you should not obey the duke, but I really think these works of yours will never have an end. Whether the duke guessed something of this, or whatever else might be the cause, his excellency again began to send for me as soon as ever it was sun-set, and the messenger desired me to come without fail, for the duke waited for me. I continued to struggle with these difficulties several weeks, and one evening as I was entering according to custom, the duke, who seemed to be engaged in some secret conversation with the dutchess, turning to me in the most violent passion imaginable, and I being somewhat terrified, was for retiring directly, when he said to me all on a sudden: come in, my friend Benvenuto, go to your business, and I will soon follow you. As I was passing by, signor D. Grazia, the duke's son, then quite an infant, took me by the cloak, and played the prettiest tricks upon me that were possible for such a child; the duke expressing some

surprize at this, said to me, how pleasant it is to see my very children so fond of you?

Whilst my time was taken up in these little trifling jobs, the princes Don John, Don Arnando, and Don Grazia, every evening came into the room where I was at work, and unknown to the duke began to play their tricks upon me. When I begged they would leave off, they made answer they would not; and I said to them, you cannot, because you will not; go your ways and leave me: at the same time the duke and dutchess began to laugh. Another evening having finished the four little figures of bronze which are joined at the basis, I mean Jupiter, Mercury, Minerva, and Danae, the mother of Perseus, with her little son Persinus sitting at her feet; I removed these small figures to the apartment where I worked in the evening, and placed them in proper order, raising them somewhat above the eye, so that they made a very pretty sight. The duke being apprized of this, came somewhat sooner than usual; and because the person who had brought him the intelligence, had represented them as something far beyond what they really were, affirming that they surpassed the works of the antients, with other exaggerations of like nature, the duke came with the dutchess, and talked to her in raptures of my works. I immediately rose and advanced to meet him; the duke with a noble and striking gesture lifted up his right hand, in which he held a beautiful pear of the largest size, and said to me, my friend Benvenuto, put this pear in your garden. I answered placidly, my lord, are you in earnest, when you desire me to put it into my garden. The duke repeated his words, and said, into your garden, which is now your own, house and all, do you understand me? I thereupon



thanked both the duke and dutchess, in the most respectful manner. They then both sat down before the little statues, for above two hours talking of nothing else, the dutchess took such a liking to them, that she said, I will by no means suffer those figures to be carried upon that base down into the great square, where they will be in danger of being spoiled: on the contrary, I must get you to set them up in an apartment of mine, where they shall be taken particular care of, and kept in a manner suitable to their excellence. I opposed what she said by a variety of arguments, and perceiving that she was determined that I should not place them upon the base where they now stand, I waited till the day following: I then repaired to the palace about ten o'clock, and finding that both the duke and the dutchess were gone to take an airing, as I had already properly prepared the base, I caused the little statues to be brought down, and fixed them with lead in the position in which they were to stand. When the dutchess saw this, she was so highly provoked, that had it not been for the duke, who took my part to his utmost, I should have come off worse than I did; however, in consequence of her resentment for the string of pearls, and this affair, she did me so many ill offices, that the duke at last left off amusing his leisure hours with me; hence it was that I ceased going to the palace, and soon had the same difficulty of access as before.

I returned to lodge at the house to which I had removed my Perseus, and went on with it under all the difficulties that have been already enumerated, that is to say, without money, and with so many other cross accidents, that one half of them would have discouraged a man of the most determined resolution. I however proceeded, and upon my hap-

pening one day to hear mass at S. Piero Scheraggio, I saw Bernardone the goldsmith and broker, whom the duke had promoted to the place of purveyor to the Mint; as he was coming out of the church, the beast insulted me in a manner so indecorous that I forbear to mention it, I thereupon cried out to him; O hog, poltroon, beast, is that the way your virtues makes a noise in the world? I then ran home for a cudgel? but Bernardone fled directly to the Mint; I stood some time however, at my door, and ordered my boys to wait in the street, and make me a sign as soon as they saw the brute. After I had waited a considerable time, I began to grow tired, and as my passion had subsided a little, I took it into consideration that blows are never under a sure direction, and that the consequences of such an affair might prove dangerous; I therefore resolved to take a different sort of revenge, and as this had happened within a day or two of the festival of our tutelary saint St. John, I wrote some verses and pasted them up at the part of the church where Bernardone had behaved in the beastly manner above described. The purport of them was as follows.

(Here there is something wanting in the M. S.)

Both the accident and the verses which it had given occasion to, soon became known at the palace; the duke and dutchess laughed heartily, and all on a sudden there gathered crowds of people about the church, who were greatly diverted with the adventure. As they looked towards the Mint, and fixed their eyes upon Bernardone, his son Baccio perceiving it, in a violent passion ran and tore the paper, and biting his finger, threatened the people with his shrill voice, which drawled through his nose; while I on my part made as great a rout as he.

The duke being informed that my statue of Perseus would bear inspection as a finished piece, came one day to see it, and shewed by many evident signs that it gave him the highest satisfaction imaginable; so turning to some noblemen in his retinue he expressed himself as follows: this work appears to me exceeding beautiful, it ought likewise to be approved of by the people; therefore, my friend Benvenuto, before you have quite done with it: I should be obliged to you, if you would for half a day throw open the gates before the large square, that we may see what the populace thinks of it: for there can be no doubt but that when it is viewed in an open place, it must make a very different appearance from what it does, when seen in this confined manner. I answered to this very humbly: depend upon it, my lord, it will appear half as well again: does not your excellency remember having seen it in the garden of my house, in which spacious place it appeared to as great an advantage as it could in the garden of the Innocents. Bandinello came to see it, and notwithstanding his natural malevolence, put some force upon himself so as to praise my performance, though he never spoke well of any body in his life before. I perceive, said I, that your excellency listens too much to his insinuations. When I expressed myself thus, he smiled somewhat scornfully, and still in the mildest terms he begged me to oblige him. He left me, and I began to prepare to exhibit my statue; but as it wanted a little gilding, varnish, and other things of the same kind, which are generally left to putting the last hand to work, I muttered, grumbled and complained, cursing the hour that I first thought of going to Florence. I was indeed by this time sensible of my great loss in leaving

France, and did not see or know what I had to hope from the duke of Florence, because all I had done for him from the first to the last had been to my own loss ; so that with great discontent I exhibited my statue the next day. But it so pleased God that as soon as ever my work was beheld by the populace, they set up so loud a shout of applause, that I began to be somewhat comforted for the mortifications I had undergone ; and there were sonnets in my praise every day upon the gate, the language of which was extremely elegant and poetical. The very day on which I exhibited my work, there were above twenty sonnets set up, containing the most hyperbolic praises of it. Even after I covered it again every day a number of verses with Latin odes and Greek poems, were published on the occasion ; for it was then vacation at the university of Pisa, and all the learned men and scholars belonging to that place, vied with each other in writing encomiums on my performance. But what gave me the highest satisfaction, and encouraged me to hope most from the duke, was that even those of my profession, I mean statuaries and painters, emulated each other in commending me ; and amongst others the admirable painter Jacopo da Punterno, whom I esteemed above all the rest, and his friend the excellent painter Bronzino whom I valued still more : the latter not satisfied with causing several panegyrics upon me to be pasted up, sent them to my house by his friend Sandrino ; in these I was so highly praised and in so elegant a style, that it afforded me some alleviation for my past mortifications and trouble, and I made all the haste I could to put the last hand to my statue. The duke, though he had heard of the compliments paid me by this excellent school, said, he was very glad I met with so fa-

vourable a reception from the public, for it would doubtless, make me more expeditious as well as more careful in putting the last hand to my work ; but that I should not flatter myself, that when it was placed in such a manner as to be seen on all sides, the people would speak as advantageously of it as at present ; on the contrary, they would then discover all the blemishes which it really had, and find many others which it had not : so that I must put on the armour of patience. What Bandinello said to the duke, when he had spoke of the works of Andrea del Verrochio, who made the beautiful statue of Christ and St. Thomas in bronze, which are to be seen in the front of Orsanmichile, and of many other works, and even of the admirable David of the divine Michael Angelo Buonarotti, declaring that they appeared to advantage only when seen before ; and when he afterwards spoke of his own Hercules, and the many satirical verses that were pasted up against him, and all the ill that was said of him by the populace ; all this made the duke, who put too much confidence in him, express himself in the above manner concerning my statue ; and he no doubt thought it would have had much the same end, because the envious Bandinello was constantly insinuating something against it. One time, when that villain Bernardone the broker happened to be present, he, to add weight to the words of Bandinello, said to the duke, You must know, my lord, that to make large figures is quite a different thing from working small ones ; I do not say but that Benvenuto has been happy enough in the latter, but you will find his great statue will have different success : with these words he mixed many more equally malicious, performing his odious office of a spy in which he told many untruths.



At last however, as it pleased the Almighty, I completely finished my work, and on a Thursday morning exhibited it fully. Just before the break of day there gathered so great a croud about it, that it is almost impossible for me to give the reader an idea of their number, and they all seemed to vie with each other who should praise it most. The duke stood at a lower window of the palace just over the gate, and being half concealed within side, heard all that was said concerning the work; after he had listened several hours, he left the window highly pleased. and turning to his favourite signior Sforza spoke to him thus: Sforza, go to Benvenuto and tell him from me, that he has given me higher satisfaction than I ever expected; let him know at the same time that I shall reward him in such a manner as shall excite his surprize; so bid him be of good cheer: signior Sforza came to me with this glorious embassy, by which I was highly rejoiced. During that whole day the people shewed me to each other as a sort of a prodigy. There happened to be then in Florence two gentlemen, who were sent from the viceroy in Sicily to our duke, about business: these two worthy personages came up to me in the great square where I was shewn to them, and cap in hand made me a long harangue, which would have been too great a panegyric even for a pope. I behaved as modestly as it was possible for me on the occasion; but they continued so long paying me compliments, that I at last begged they would leave the square, because the populace crowded about to stare at me, more than at my statue of Perseus. During their ceremonies and compliments, they went so far as to purpose to me to go with them to Sicily, telling me that I should have no objection to their terms;

at the same time they told me, that brother Giovanangiolo, of the order of the Servi, had made them a fountain, adorned with a variety of figures, which were vastly inferior to my Perseus, though they had made his fortune, without letting them finish all they would have said on the occasion, I interrupted them in these terms: I am very much surprized, gentlemen, that you would propose to me to quit the service of a duke, who is a greater lover and encourager of men of genius than any prince that ever lived; especially as I have at the same time the advantage of being in my own country, the first school in the world, for the polite arts and all works of ingenuity: if the love of gain had been my ruling passion, I might have staid in France, in the service of a great monarch, who allowed me a pension of a thousand crowns a year, and paid me for every piece of work I did for him besides, inso-much that annually I had above four thousand crowns coming in to me, and I had left in Paris the works of four years. Thus I put a stop to their proposal, and returned them thanks for the praise they bestowed on me, the greatest reward that can be conferred for laudable undertakings. I added, that they had so inflamed my zeal to signalize myself, that I hoped in a few years to exhibit another work, which I flattered myself would give the school of Florence still greater satisfaction, than it had received from my present performance. The two gentlemen were for renewing the conversation, but making them a low bow, I very respectfully took my leave.

Having let two days pass, and perceiving that my fame increased continually, I went to pay the duke a visit, who said to me with great complaisance, My friend Benvenuto, you have given both me and

the public in general the highest satisfaction imaginable : but I have promised to reward you in such a manner as shall excite your surprize ; and what is more, I am resolved not to defer it so much as a day. Upon receiving these great assurances, I raised up all my mental and corporeal faculties to the Almighty, and returned him my sincere and hearty thanks ; at the same instant I shed tears of joy, and kissing the hem of his excellency's garment, addressed him thus, My most noble lord, liberal patron of the arts and of those that cultivate them, I beg it as a favour of your excellency, that you would give me leave to retire for a week, to return thanks to the Supreme Being, for I know how hard I have worked, and am sensible that my faith has prevailed with God to grant me his assistance : on account of this, and every other miraculous succour afforded me by the Divine Power, I propose going a pilgrimage for a week, to express my acknowledg-ment to the eternal Being, who ever assists those that sincerely call upon him. The duke then asked me whither I intended to go ? I made answer, that I should the next day set out, and go first to Vallombrosa, then to Camaldoli, and the wilderness, and afterwards continue my pilgrimage to the baths of St. Maria, and perhaps as far as Sestile, for I had been informed that there were fine antiquities in that place ; I should then return by St. Francis of Vernia, and never ceasing to give thanks to the Almighty, should come home joyfully to serve his excellency. The duke thereupon said to me with great chearfulness, Go, and come back again, I am pleased with your attention ; but give me a couplet in remembrance of you, and leave the rest to me. I immediately composed four lines, in which I returned his excellency thanks for his promised

favours, and gave them to Signor Sforza, who put them into the duke's hand in my name. The latter, after perusing them, gave them again to Signor Sforza, with these words, be sure you shew them to me every day; for if Benvenuto should upon his return find that I had neglected his business, he would be the death of me beyond all doubt; his excellency then laughed, and Signor Sforza told him he would be sure to put him in mind. These very words the latter repeated to me in the evening, telling me that the duke ordered him to put him in mind of me, and mentioning at the same time all that had passed on the occasion. Signor Sforza could not help laughing all the time, while he expressed much surprize at the high esteem in which I was held by the duke; at parting he said to me with great good humour, Benvenuto, go, and return with speed, for I envy your happiness.

## CHAPTER IX.

*The author in his pilgrimage meets with an old alchymist of Bagno, who makes a discovery to him of some mines of gold and silver, and gives him a map of his own drawing, which he shews a dangerous pass in the duke's country—He returns with it to the duke, who makes him great acknowledgments for his zeal—Difference between him and the duke about the value of his Perseus and Andromeda—It is refered to the arbitration of Ferronimo degli Albizi, who decides the matter not at all to Cellini's satisfaction—Fresh dispute between him and the duke, in which Bandinello and the dutchess interpose—the duke wants him to make some bronze figures in basso relievo round the choir of S. Maria del Fiore—After a few conferences he dissuades the duke from the undertaking—He offers to erect two pulpits in the chior, and adorn them with basso relievo figures in bronze—The duke approves of the proposal.*

I Left Florence, incessantly singing psalms and saying prayers to the honour and glory of God, during the whole journey, in which I had great pleasure, as it was then summer, and the weather very fine; so pleased was I with the country in which I had never tavelled before, that my delight proved equal to my wonder. My guide was a young man from the baths of S. Maria, who worked in my



shop, and whose name was Cæsar. I met with a very kind reception at the baths from his father and the whole family, amongst whom was an old man above seventy, a very agreeable companion: he was a professed physician and surgeon, and had a smattering of alchymy. This worthy man proved to me, that the bath had mines of gold and silver, and shewed me several curiosities in that country; so that I never in my life enjoyed greater pleasure. Being at last grown quite familiar with me, he told me one day, that he could not help communicating to me a thought of his, which if his excellency would join with us, he believed would turn highly to our advantage; what he meant was, that near Camaldoli there was a pass so open, that Piero Strozzi could not only pass through it with ease, but Poppi might dispossess him of it without any difficulty: and not satisfied with proving this to me in words, he took a leaf out of his pocket-book, upon which he had drawn so exact a plan of the whole country, as shewed but too plainly, that the danger from that pass was not at all imaginary. I took the plan, and immediately quitting the baths of S. Maria, returned by the road of Great Prato, and from S. Francis of Vernia, arrived at Florence. As soon as I had pulled off my boots, I repaired to the palace, and when I reached the abbey, I met the duke, who was just coming from the governor; he received me most graceously, but at the same time expressing some surprize, asked me how I came to return so soon, for he did not expect me that week. I answered, that I was returned to serve his excellency, otherwise should have gladly made a stay of several days in the delightful countries where I had been rambling. What business of importance, continued the

duke, has caused your speedy return? My lord, I replied, I have something of great consequence to shew you: so I went with him to the palace. When we came there, he conducted me to a private apartment. I told him all I had heard, and shewed him the sketch I had brought with me: he appeared to be highly pleased with it, and upon my observing to his excellency, that it was absolutely necessary to find an immediate remedy for an affair of such importance; the duke seemed to muse for a while, and then told me, he had concluded in an accommodation with the duke of Urbino, who would take care of that matter; but still he desired me to keep it in petto myself. I then returned home, after having received many demonstrations of his favour.

The next day I made my appearance at the palace, and the duke, after a short conversation, said to me with great cheerfulness, To-morrow I will without fail dispatch your business, so be of good cheer. Thinking myself sure of being provided for, I with impatience waited for the morrow. The wished-for day being arrived, I repaired to the palace: but as it generally happens, that bad news are sooner communicated than good, Signor Jacobo Guidi, his excellency's secretary, called me aside with a wry mouth, and an authoritative voice; then, with his usual stiffness of manner and deportment, he told me, that the duke was desirous to know from myself, what I asked for my Perseus. Quite disconcerted and surprised at this question, I immediately answered, that it was not customary with me to set a price upon my works, and that the duke did not keep the promise he had made me a few days before. The secretary raising his voice, said, he expressly commanded me in the duke's

name, to tell what I expected for my statue, upon pain of forfeiting his excellency's favour. I, who not only expected some considerable recompence, in consequence of the caresses lavished on me by the duke, but likewise flattered myself that I had entirely gained his good graces, and never desired any higher reward than his favours, upon meeting with this unexpected treatment, aggravated by the insolence of that waspish secretary, was incensed to such a degree, that I declared, if the duke was to give me ten thousand ducates for my statue, it would be less than it was worth; and if I had ever expected to be bargained with in such a manner, I should never have staid at Florence. The spiteful secretary thereupon gave me a deal of opprobrious language, which I returned in the same stile. The very next day I paid my court to his excellency, who beckoned to me to approach: upon my coming up, he told me in a passion, that cities and magnificent palaces of kings might be built for ten thousand ducates: I bowed, and answered without hesitation, that his excellency might find numbers of men capable of building cities and palaces; but perhaps he might not in the whole world find another artist able to make him such a statue of Perseus as mine: and having thus expressed myself, I departed. A few days after, the dutchess sent for me, and desired me to make her arbitress of the dispute between the duke and me, boasting that she would contrive matters so, that I should have entire satisfaction. In return to this kind offer, I made answer, that I never desired any higher reward of my labours, than his excellency's good graces; that he had promised me his favour, and it was unnecessary that I should then renew to their excellencies the declaration which I had made on the

first day that I began to serve them. I added, that even if his excellency had given me but two-pence for my trouble, I should think myself happy, if he did not deprive me of his benevolence. The dutchess smiling, answered me thus: Benvenuto, your best way would be to follow my advice; and so she left me.

I thought I could not do better than express myself in the humble manner above related; I was notwithstanding mistaken; for though the dutchess had had some difference with me, she was possessed of a great deal of good nature, and certainly meant well. At this time I was intimately acquainted with Girolamo degli Albizi, commissary to the militia, who one day said to me, Benvenuto, it appears highly expedient that we should endeavour to find some method of accommodating this dispute between the duke and you; and if you will put that confidence in me, I dare say I shall find means to set all to rights; for as the duke is seriously offended, this may otherwise turn out to your disadvantage; a word to the wise is sufficient, I can say no more at present. As I had been apprised of this, since the dutchess had the above conversation with me, by one who perhaps had an ill intention in so doing, and who said he came by his information accidentally, I replied in a passion, I could for less than two-pence find in my heart to throw my Perseus away, and that would completely put an end to the dispute at once. However, on account of the suspicion I had of the person from whom I had my information, I told Girolamo degli Albizi, that I left the whole affair to him, and should readily agree to any proposal of his, provided I might continue in favour with the duke. This worthy person, who was thoroughly acquaint-

ed with the profession of a soldier, especially with training and disciplining the country militia, had no kind of taste for the polite arts, nor consequently for that of sculpture: so he spoke concerning me to the duke, told him that I had left the whole affair to him, and requested him to speak to his excellency in my favour. The duke replied, that he would also intrust the whole affair to him, and should abide by whatever he determined. Girolamo thereupon wrote a very ingenious letter, in which he spoke greatly in my behalf; and his determination was, that the duke should give me three thousand five hundred gold crowns, not as a gratification for so elegant a piece of work, but towards my present support; that I should be satisfied with that sum; together with many more words, which had all the same tendency. The duke subscribed to this with pleasure; I was however very far from being satisfied. When the dutchess heard of this, she said, it would have been better for me if I had left the affair to her, for she would have procured me five thousand gold crowns: and one day that I went to the palace, her excellency said the very same thing to me in the presence of Signor Alamanno Salviati, and turned me into ridicule, telling me that I deserved all the bad success I had met with. The duke gave order that a hundred gold crowns should be paid me every month; afterwards Signor Antonio, who was commissioned to pay me, began to give me only fifty, and after that again he reduced his payments to five and twenty, and sometimes did not pay me at all. When I perceived these delays, I mildly expostulated with Signor Antonio, and begged to know for what reason he discontinued my payment: he answered me civilly; but I thought that in his answer he went



a little beyond the bounds of probability ; for first of all (I leave it to the reader to judge) he told me that the cause of discontinuing my payments was, that money began to be very scarce at court ; but he added that as soon as ever he was in cash, he would pay me ; he at the same time loudly declared, that if he were to neglect paying me, he should be one of the greatest villains breathing ! I was surprized to hear him use such an expression ; so he promised that he would pay me as soon as ever it was in his power ; but his deeds proved quite contrary to his declarations. Seeing myself thus hardly treated, I grew very angry, and giving him a great deal of harsh and severe language, put him in mind of all he had promised. He died soon after, and there remained, and still remain due to me five hundred gold crowns, now that we are near the close of the year 1566. I then ceased to receive any remains of my salary and thought they would entirely neglect to pay me it, as near three years had elapsed ; but the duke was about this time attacked by a dangerous disorder, which occasioned a stranguary for eight and forty hours ; so perceiving the remedies administered by his physicians did him no service, he had recourse to the Almighty, and thereupon ordered that all his servants and tradesmen should receive what money was due to them ; I was paid among the rest, but not the remainder of what was owing to me for my statue of Perseus.

I had almost formed a resolution to say nothing more of my ill fated Perseus, but as a remarkable accident lays me under the necessity of again making mention of it, I must for a while resume my past narrative. I thought what I did was for the best, when I told the dutchess that I could not compromise what was not in my power ; for I had

assured the duke that I should be satisfied with whatever his excellency should think proper to give me: this I said with a view of ingratiating myself, and with some little appearance of humility I sought every proper method to appease him; a few days before he had made the above mentioned agreement with Albizi, he appeared to be very angry with me, and the reason was, that happening to complain to him of some ill usage that I had received from signor Jacobo Polverino, who belonged to the treasury, and still more of signor Giambatista Bandini of Volterra, I laid my charge against them with some appearance of warmth: I then perceived that the duke was highly insenced, and threw out these angry expressions; this puts me in mind of your statue of Perseus, for which you asked me ten thousand crowns; interest has too much sway over you, I will get an estimate taken of its value, and pay you whatever it is rated at, I answered boldly with some emotion, which is by no means proper when we have to deal with personages of high rank: how is it possible for a proper estimate to be taken of my statue, when there is not a man in Florence who is an adequate judge of its merit? The duke was still more provoked at this, and uttered a great many passionate expressions; if there be a man in Florence, said he, able to make one like it, that man must be capable of forming a proper estimate of it; when he said this he had Bandinello cavalier of St. Jacob in his eye. My lord, replied I, your excellency has given me an opportunity of executing at the greatest school in the world, a noble and most arduous work, which has been more highly extolled than any other statue hitherto exhibited before that divine assembly; and what encourages me most, is that those excellent

men who understand and profess the business, pass as favourable a judgment on my performance, as the rest; for example, Bronzino the painter has exerted himself, and written four sonnets on the occasion, using the most noble and sublime expressions that could possibly enter into his conception; and it is in consequence of the great encomiums bestowed on my work by this extraordinary person, that the whole city has so greatly admired it; and I will venture to affirm, that if he were to cultivate sculpture, as he does painting, he would very probably be able to equal it. I must also inform your excellency, that my master Michael Angelo Buonarotti, could likewise have made such a one, when he was younger than he is at present, it would however have cost him as much trouble as mine has done me; but now that he is advanced in years, he is utterly incapable of producing any thing like it, so that I don't think there is an artist living capable of equaling my work. Thus has my performance received the greatest reward that it was possible for me to wish; and still more so as your excellency has not only declared yourself satisfied with it, but has even bestowed upon it higher praises than any body else; what greater or more honourable reward could I possibly desire? I will therefore affirm, that you could not pay me in more glorious coin, nor with any sort of treasure equal to that; so that I am amply paid, and thank your excellency with all my heart. That is so far, answered the duke from being the case, that you don't think I have treasure sufficient to satisfy you for your performance, but I assure you I will pay you much more than it is worth. I said in reply, that I did not expect any farther recompence from his excellency, but thought myself amply rewarded by that which I

received from the school of Florence, and with that I should presently depart in God's name, without ever returning to the house which his excellency had given me, or ever more desiring to see Florence. We were just then at S. Felicita, and the duke was returning to his palace. Upon my uttering these warm and passionate expressions, he turned about to me, and said angrily, don't go away I say again don't go away upon any account; so that I accompanied him to the palace somewhat frightened. His excellency thereupon sent for the bishop Bartolini, who was archbishop of Pisa, and likewise for Signor Pandolfo della Stufa, and desired them to order Baccio Bandinello in his name, to examine my statue of Perseus, and value it, because he proposed paying me exactly according to its worth. The two worthy persons named above, immediately found Baccio Bandinello, and delivered their message to him, who knew very well the value of my work, but, as he had had many differences with me, did not chuse to concern himself in my affairs. The two gentlemen then added, that the duke has desired us to tell you, that he commands you, upon pain of his displeasure, to set a price upon the statue, and you may take two or three days to examine it attentively, if you think proper; after which you are to inform us what the artist deserves for his trouble. He thereupon made answer, that he had examined the statue attentively, and, as he could not avoid obeying the duke's commands, was obliged to declare, that the work had proved so admirable a master-piece, that, in his opinion, it was worth sixteen thousand gold crowns and upwards. The gentlemen immediately informed the duke of this decision, who was highly displeased at it; they likewise told me of it; but I said, that I

would by no means accept of the praise of Bandinello, as that man spoke ill of every body. These words of mine were repeated to the duke, and the dutchess again would have me leave the whole affair to her. All that I have here related is strictly true; it was therefore most advisable for me to submit the whole affair to the dutchess, and by so doing I was likely to be soon paid, and to receive a gratification besides.

The duke gave me to understand by Signor Lelio Torelli, his auditor, that he wanted me to represent certain pieces of history in a basso relievo of bronze, round the choir of St. Maria del Fiore; but as this choir was a work of Bandinello's I did not chuse to ennoble his paltry performance by my labours; tho' the plan of the choir was not his, as he had not the least knowledge of architecture, but that of Giuliano di Baccio of Agnolo, a carpenter, who spoiled the cupola; it is sufficient to say of it, that it has no sort of beauty; for both these reasons I chose to decline being any way concerned in the work; though I humbly told the duke, that I was upon all occasions ready to obey his excellency's command. Soon after this, he ordered the overseers of St. Maria del Fiore to talk to me about the affair; for he proposed to allow me only my salary of two hundred crowns a year, and that in all other respects the overseers were to supply me out of the fund assigned for carrying on the work: so I repaired to the overseers, who told me the orders they had received from the duke: and as I thought I might freely acquaint them with all my reasons for disapproving the job, I began to prove, that so many pieces of history, represented in bronze, would occasion a prodigious expence, and that it would be nothing else but throwing away



money idly ; I laid before them all the causes that induced me to think so, and they were very capable of conceiving the full force of what I alledged : the first was, that the manner in which the choir had been laid out, was quite irregular, contrived without judgment, without the least appearance of art, convenience, gracefulness, or design : the other was, that the historical pieces, by being placed so low, would make a sty for hogs, and be constantly defiled with all sorts of dirt : for the causes which I had assigned, I declared that I did not chuse upon any account to be concerned in the the work ; that I might not loose the remainder of my best days, and without doing his excellency any service, whom I was so ambitious to serve and to oblige : therefore, if he had a desire to employ me, he should rather order me to make the middle door of the church of St. Maria del Fiore, which would be a performance worth seeing, and would do his excellency much more honour than the other. I added, that I was willing to enter into a contract, that in case it did not in the execution surpass the finest door of St. John's church, I would ask no reward for my trouble ; but in case I finished it according to my promise, I consented that it should be valued, and even then I should be satisfied with a thousand crowns less than it was estimated at by those of the profession. The overseers being highly pleased with what I proposed, went to speak of it to the duke, and, amongst others, Piero Salviati thinking that what they were going to propose would prove highly agreeable to his excellency : however, it proved quite the reverse, for he said that I was for doing the very contrary of what he would have me do : so Piero left the duke without coming to any conclusion.

When I heard what had passed between them, I waited on the duke, who seemed to be somewhat offended with me; I begged he would condescend so far as to hear what I had to say in my defence, and he promised he would. So I began to give him a full account of the whole affair, and used so many arguments to explain the nature of the thing to his excellency, and convince him, that to engage in such an undertaking, would be only throwing away money, that I greatly softened him, and then took occasion to observe, that if he did not chuse to have the door I mentioned, It was absolutely necessary to make two pulpits to the choir, and that they would be two noble works, and do him honour. I added, that I would adorn them with a number of historical pieces in basso relievo of bronze, together with a variety of other embellishments; in this manner did I appease his excellency, who gave me orders to go about the models without delay. I made a variety of models, and took a great deal of pains on the occasion; amongst others, I made one with eight faces more carefully than any of the rest, and thought it much better adapted to the purpose it was intended to answer, than the others; as I had carried the models several times to the palace, his excellency ordered Signor Cætare, his wardrobe-keeper, to desire me to leave them. I perceived afterwards that the duke had made choice of the very worst. One day his excellency sent for me, and, in some conversation which we had concerning these models, I proved to him by many arguments, that the model with eight faces was the best calculated for the purpose, and by much the most beautiful of them all. The duke answered, that he chose I should make it quadrangular, because he liked that form best; so he conversed

with me a long time upon the subject, with good humour. I did not fail to say on the occasion, every thing that my knowledge of the art suggested; and, whether the duke at last became sensible that I spoke the truth, or was resolved to have the thing his own way, he was for a considerable time without mentioning a word to me about it.

## CHAPTER. X.

*Contest between Cellini and Bandinello about carving a statue of Neptune from a very fine piece of marble—The dutchess favours Bandinello, but Cellina by an ellegant remonstrance prevails on the duke to consent that whoever produced the best design should have the marble—The preference was given to Cellini's design, and Bandinello dies though vexation—The dutchess in spight causes the marble to be given to Bartholomew Ammanato—Account of a remarkable transaction between Cellini and a grazier, whose name was Shietta—He narrowly escapes being poisoned by Shietta's wife who is encouraged in that villainous design by Philip, a profligate Priest—Cellini, during his illness, which lasted six months, is supplanted at court by Bartholomew Ammanato*

ABOUT this time the great block of marble for a statue of Neptune was brought by the river Arno, and carried through the road which leads to Poggio a Cajano, that it might afterwards be conveyed the more easily to Florence by that level road, where I went to see it. And though I knew to a certainty, that the dutchess had by her interest procured it for the cavalier Bandinello, yet not through any envy to that artist, but, moved to com-

passion for the destiny of the unfortunate marble, I took a view of it, measured its height and thickness every way, and, at my return to Florence, made several little models for it. I must here observe by the way, that when we endeavour to preserve any great thing from evil, it often meets with a worse fate than that from which we rescued it; as was the case with this marble, by falling into the hands of Bartholomew Ammonato, of whom I shall speak in a proper place. Having made the little models above-mentioned, I repaired to Poggio a Cajano, where the duke and dutchess were, with the prince their son. I found them all at the table, and the duke dined in private with the dutchess, so that I began to enter into conversation with the prince; as I talked with him a considerable time, the duke, who was in an apartment hard by, overheard us, and in a very polite manner sent for me: as soon as I came into the presence of their excellencies, the dutchess began to converse with me with great good humour; I contrived to turn the subject of the conversation to the block of marble; I thereupon observed, that their ancestors had rendered the noble school of Florence so illustrious, by exciting emulation amongst the men of genius in the several different professions; it was this that produced the admirable cupola, the beautiful doors of St. John's church, and so many other noble temples and statues, reflecting so high an honour on this city, which never could boast such ornaments since the days of the ancients. The dutchess peevishly replied, that she knew very well what I would be at, and desired I would never speak again of that marble in her presence, as nothing could give her greater offence. I then offend you, said I, Madame, by becoming an agent



for your excellencies, and exerting myself to the utmost to have you well served. Consider seriously, that if your excellencies are willing to permit every artist so produce a model of Neptune, even though you are resolved to give the preference to Bandinello's; this will excite him, for his own honour, to exert himself with more ardour in making a beautiful model, than he would have done were he to have no competitor; thus will your excellencies be better served, and will avoid discouraging your excellent school; and will likewise see who applies closest to this admirable art, I mean its elegant manner, and you will appear both to delight in it, and be judges of its beauties. The dutchess then told me in a passion, that I tired her patience, that she was resolved the marble should be Bandinello's; adding, that the duke himself was determined that Bandinello should have it. When the dutchess had made an end of speaking, the duke who had continued silent all the time, replied; it is now twenty years since I caused this fine piece of marble to be dug up out of the quarry on purpose for Bandinello, and therefore it is my pleasure that he should have, it and it shall be his. I thereupon turned to the duke, and begged it as a favour, that he would give me leave just to say four words to him for his excellency's advantage. The duke bid me say whatever I thought proper, telling me that he would listen with attention. I delivered myself thus: You are to understand, my lord, that the marble of which Bandinello made Hercules and Cacus, was taken out of the quarry by the renowned Michael Angelo Buonarotti, who made of it a model of Sampson with four figures, which would have been one of the first pieces in the whole world; and your favourite Bandinello made of it only two

figures, both ill executed, and put together in the most bungling manner: therefore the admirable school of Florence still exclaims against the great injury that was done that fine piece of marble. I really believe there were above a thousand sonnets pasted up to ridicule that wretched performance, and I am sure your excellency remembers the thing very well; if, therefore, my worthy lord, the men to whose care that business was intrusted, were so injudicious as to take so valuable a piece of marble from Michael Angelo, and give it to Bandinello who spoiled it, as it evidently appears, can you ever think of suffering the same person to spoil this other much finer block, and not give it to some other artist of abilities capable of doing it justice? Give orders, my lord, for every artist to make a model; let them be all laid before the academy, your excellency will then hear its opinion concerning them, and with your usual judgment be able to chuse the best: thus you will avoid throwing away your money, and discouraging a school, which is now the most flourishing in the world, and reflects such honour on your excellency. The duke, after having listened very attentively, arose on a sudden from the table, and turning to me, said, Go, my friend Benvenuto, make a model, and endeavour to win that fine piece of marble, for I am sensible that what you say is just. The dutchess shook her head at me, and muttered something, as if she were angry: but I, bowing to their excellencies, made all the haste I could to return to Florence, being quite impatient to begin the model.

The duke was no sooner arrived at Florence, but he, without giving me any previous notice, came to my house, when I shewed him two little models, quite different from each other; he praised them

both, but added, that one of them pleased him much more than the other ; and, bidding me finish that he was pleased with, told me I should find my account in it ; as his excellency had seen those made by Bandinello and the other artists, he greatly preferred mine to the rest ; for so I was informed by several courtiers who had heard him. Amongst other circumstances worthy of being related, one was, that the cardinal di Santa Fiore being come to Florence, the duke carried him with him to Poggio a Cajano ; by the way, the cardinal seeing the piece of marble above-mentioned, praised it highly, and asked who his excellency intended should work upon it. The duke answered, My Benvenuto, who has made me an excellent model. This was repeated to me by persons worthy of credit, and on that account I waited on the dutchess and carried her some pretty little nicknacks of my making, which her excellency liked very much. She asked me what I was at that time about ; I made answer, Madam, I have undertaken one of the most laborious tasks in the world, by way of amusement : the task I mean is, a Christ crucified, of the whitest marble, upon a cross of the blackest, as big as the life. Upon her asking me what I proposed to do with it, I replied thus ; I assure you, Madam, I would not give it for two thousand ducates ; for no man ever took such pains with a piece of work, nor could I have undertaken to make such a one for any nobleman, for fear of discovering my want of capacity, and being put to confusion. I bought the marble with my own money, and kept a young man about two years to assist me ; and what with purchasing marble and tools, and paying him a salary, the work has stood me in above three hundred crowns ; so that I again declare I would not give it for two

thousand ducates : but if your excellency will do me one favour, I will freely make you a present of it ; all that I desire is, that you will be neutral with respect the models of a Neptune, which the duke has ordered to be made of the great marble. The dutchess answered with great indignation ; It seems then, you neither value my interest nor my opposition ! I replied, you quite mistake me, Madam, I know very well the consequence of both ; why else do I offer you what I value at two thousand ducats ? But I rely so much on my diligence and acquired knowledge, that I have good hopes of winning the prize, even if it were disputed with me by the great Michael Angelo Buonarotti, from whom alone I learned all I know : and I would much rather that he who knows so much should make a model, than the others who know so little ; for much honour might be won by entering the lists with my renowned master, but there can be very little in contending with inferior artists. When I had made an end of speaking, the dutchess arose in a pet ; and I returned to my model, working at it with all assiduity. As soon as I had finished it, the duke came to see it, accompanied by two ambassadors, one from the duke of Ferrar, the other from the republic of Lucca. My model gave high satisfaction, and the duke said to the ambassadors, Benvenuto deserves the prize. Thereupon both the noble personages complimented me highly, especially the ambassador of the republic of Lucca, who was a man of learning, and had taken the degree of doctor. I retired to some distance, that they might speak their sentiments freely ; when I found they were favourable to me, I suddenly drew near, and turning to the duke, said, My lord, your excellency should have recourse to another ex-

pedient, which is, to give orders that each artist should make a model of earth exactly of the same size as the marble statue, by which means your excellency will be much better able to tell who deserves the preference: and I must farther take the liberty to observe, that if you give the prize to an artist who is not deserving of it, you will not so much injure the person who has merit, as yourself; for both loss and shame will result to you from such a decision: whereas, by a contrary conduct, that is, by giving it to him that is worthy of it, you will, in the first place, acquire great reputation; you will next lay out your money to advantage, and men of genius will think that you delight in the polite arts, and are a judge of abilities. When I had made an end of speaking, the duke shrugged up his shoulders, and as he was just going, the ambassador from Lucca said to him: My lord, this Benvenuto of yours is a man of great spirit. The duke made answer, He has more spirit than you are aware of, and it would have been well for him if he had had less, for he would then have obtained many gratifications which he has missed. These words were repeated to me by the ambassador, who at the same time chid me for not acting the courtier better; I made answer, that I wished well to my lord, was his affectionate and faithful servant, and could not stoop to the arts of flattery and adulation.

Some weeks after, Bandinello died, and it was generally thought, that, besides his disorder, the grief which he felt at losing the fine piece of marble, out of which the statue of Neptune was to be made, greatly contributed to hasten his dissolution. Bandinello had heard of my making the marble crucifix, of which I have spoken above, he thereupon took a small piece of marble, and made that figure of Pie-



ty which is to be seen in the church of the Nunziata. As I had dedicated my crucifix to the new St. Mary, and already fixed up the irons to fasten it upon, I wanted nothing further but to erect on the ground under the crucifix, a little monument to be buried in after my death. The monks told me, they could not grant my request, without asking leave of the overseers of the building. Why then, said I, did not you consult the overseers before you permitted me to fix up the irons in this place for setting up my crucifix? For this reason I resolved not to give my work to this church of the new St. Mary's, though the overseers afterwards came and made me an apology. I therefore repaired to the church of the Nunziata, and told the monks, that I would make them a present of my crucifix, in the same manner as I had proposed bestowing it on the church of the new St. Mary; upon which the good brethren of the Nunziata bid me set up my crucifix in their church, and erect my tomb in whatever manner I thought proper. Bandinello being informed of this, made all the haste he could to finish his figure of piety, and requested the dutchess to grant him the chapel, formerly belonging to the Pazzi, which he at last with great difficulty obtained, and as soon as he had accomplished his desire, he erected his tomb in it, which was not completely finished when he died. The dutchess then said, she had befriended him during his life, and would continue her regard for him even after his decease; for tho' he was no more, Benvenuto must never expect to have the marble in his possession. Bernardone the broker happening one day to meet me in town, told me, that the dutchess had given away the marble; upon which I exclaimed, O ill-fated stone, hard indeed was thy lot in falling into the

hands of Bandinello; but it is a hundred times more deplorable, now thou art in those of Ammanato!

I had received directions from the duke to make a model of earth, of the same size as the statue of marble was intended; at the same time he ordered me to be furnished with wood and earth, and a little partition to be erected in the apartment where I had made my Perseus; He likewise paid the wages of a workman who was to assist me. I set about my model with the utmost assiduity, made the bony part in wood, with the greatest exactness, and brought my work happily to a conclusion: I gave myself no farther trouble about carving the statue, for I knew that the dutchess was determined that I should not have the fine block of marble, and therefore I was in some measure indifferent about it. I however took pleasure in exerting myself as I did, promising myself that as soon as I had finished it, the dutchess, who did not want discernment, would, after she had seen the work, be sorry she done both the marble and herself so much injustice. John Fiamingo made one model in the cloisters of St. Croce; another was done by Vincenzo Danti of Perugia, in the house of signor Ottavio de Medici; another was begun by the son of Moschino, at Pisa; and another again was made by Bartholomeo Ammanati, in my working room, which we had divided between us. When I had well bronzed it over, and was going to finish the head, the duke came from the palace with Georgetto the painter to Ammanato's apartment, in order to view the statue of Neptune, upon which Georgetto had worked several days with his own hands, in conjunction with Ammanato and all his journeymen. I was informed, that when his excellency saw it, he

appeared to be by no means satisfied; and though Georgetto with his chatter wanted to persuade him into a good opinion of the work, the duke shook his head, and turning about to signor George Stefano, bid him go ask Benvenuto, whether his great model was in such forwardness, that he could let him have a sight of it. Stefano thereupon in a very kind and polite manner delivered me this message from the duke; adding, that if I did not think my work would yet bear inspection, I might say so without reserve, as the duke was well aware that I had not been properly seconded in an undertaking of such importance. I answered, that I should be glad of the favour of his excellency's presence, that even if my work were not in any great forwardness, so penetrating a genius as his excellency could easily form a judgment of what it would prove when entirely finished. The gentleman delivered the message to the duke, who came with great cheerfulness: no sooner had he entered the room, and cast his eye upon my work, but he appeared to be highly pleased with it; he examined it on all sides, fixing particularly upon the four principal points of view, just as a complete artist might have done; he then shewed by many gestures, that he was highly pleased with it, and said nothing farther, but, Benvenuto, you have the last coat to lay on still: at length he turned to his attendants, and spoke of my performance in the most advantageous terms, declaring that the little model which he saw at my house, pleased him greatly, but that this work of mine had far surpassed that model.

As it pleased God, who makes all things co-operate to our advantage I mean to the advantage of those that acknowledge and believe in his divine

Majesty; about this time an old rogue, whose name was Pier-maria of Anterigoli, and his surname Sbietta, offered to sell me a farm for my natural life, that is, to sell me an annuity: this man followed the business of a grazier, and as he was related to signor Guido Guidi the physician, who is now chief magistrate of Pescia, I readily listened to his proposal. This farm I did not chuse to go to see, being impatient to finish my model of the great statue of Neptune; besides there was no occasion for my seeing it, as he only sold me the income of it, and had given me a written account of the measures of grain, wine, oil, corn, chesnuts and other commodities, the produce of the farm; all which I took for granted, must, as times then went, be worth above a hundred gold crowns, so I paid him a hundred and sixty crowns for them, including the duties. After he had given me a writing signed with his own hand, which imported, that he would during his natural life take care to see me paid the income of the above farm; I thought it unnecessary to go and take a view of it, but inquired the best I could, whether the said Sbietta and his brother Philip were good men, such as might be depended upon; and was assured by several of their acquaintances that they were, and I might be perfectly secure. We agreed to send for Pier Francesco Bertoldi the notary, and the first thing I put into his hand, was the written account of what Sbietta was to make good to me, thinking that it should by all means enter into the contract; but the notary who drew it up, busied himself with two and twenty different articles, which were mentioned to him by Sbietta, and, as I thought, seem to forget the main part of the contract, which was

the payment of the annuity. Whilst the notary was busied in writing, I worked on, and as he was several hours in drawing the deed, in the mean time I made a considerable part of the head of my Neptune. The instrument being at last entirely compleated, Sbietta began to lavish caresses on me, as I in my turn did on him: he made me presents of kids, cheeses, capons, cakes, and a variety of different fruits, till at last I began to be quite ashamed; in return for these favours, every time he came to Florence, I took him home with me from his inn, and he was frequently accompanied by some of his relations, whom I likewise invited to my house. One day he told me in a jocular manner, that it was a shame after I had bought a farm, and several weeks had passed since I made the purchase I could not discontinue my business for a few days and go and see it. Such an effect had his insinuations on my mind, that I at last, to my misfortune, did comply with his desire: Sbietta received me with such caresses and outward ceremony, that he could not have done more for a duke, and his wife seemed to be still fonder of me than her husband; which continued for a time till what he and his brother Philip had concerted between them had taken effect. At the same time I went on with my work, and had already sketched out the whole, with an exactness unknown to any artist before me; so that though I was sure not to get the marble for the reasons assigned, I thought myself upon the point of finishing and exhibiting it in the public square for my own satisfaction. The weather was warm and pleasant, so that being much importuned by the two villains above-mentioned, I set out from town on Wednesday, which was doubly a holy-day, for



Trespiano, and eat a good breakfast on my arrival at Vicchio: I met Philip the priest, at the very gate of Vicchio, who seemed to know where I was going, and to be extremely fond of my company; he conducted me to Sbietta's house, where was his shameless wife, who likewise seemed lavish of her caresses to me; I made her a present of a straw hat, and she declared that she had never seen a finer: Sbietta happened not to be then at home. Evening approaching, we all supped together very cheerfully, and when it was time to retire, I was shewn into a handsome apartment, where I slept in an exceeding good bed, and my two servants were accommodated in a manner agreeable to their station: the same caresses were repeated, when I arose in the morning. I went to take a view of my farm, with which I was highly pleased, and a certain quantity of corn and all sorts of grain was given me; I then returned to Vicchio, and Philip said to me at our parting: Benvenuto, don't be under any apprehensions; for though you have not received as much as was promised you, you must not be disheartned, for you will meet an ample compensation, as you have honest people to deal with: I must however caution you against yon labourer, whom we have turned off, because he is a rogue, This labourer, whose name was Mariano Rosselli, often said to me: take care of yourself, or you will know to your cost, which of us is the greatest villain. When that country fellow spoke to me in this manner, he smiled archly and shook his head, as much as to say, you will one day find that I speak the truth. I was guilty in part of an error in judgment, but was not at all mistaken in what happened to me. Returning from my farm, which is about two miles distant from Vicchio towards the

Apennines, I met Philip the priest, who received me with his usual caresses; so we breakfasted together: I then went to take a walk about the town of Viccio, and the market was already begun. I perceived that I was stared at by all the inhabitants of the place, as an object they were not at all accustomed to; above all by a worthy man, who had lived many years in the town, and whose wife followed the baker's business: this honest person had about a mile's distance some lands of his own, though he chose to live in that manner: he rented a house of mine in Viccio, which fell to me with the farm known by the name of the Fountain. As we happened to fall into conversation, he said to me: I live in your house, and will pay you your rent when it becomes due; or if you chuse to receive it before hand, you may, for I am resolved we shall have no disputes. Whilst we were thus talking together, I perceived that the man several times fixed his eyes upon me attentively; so I could not help saying to him, dear John, why do you look at me with such earnestness? the worthy man made answer; I will tell you with all my heart, if you promise upon your honour not to discover your author. I solemnly promised him that I would not. He thereupon continued; you must understand then that this dirty priest signor Philippo, a few days ago went about making his boasts of the great feats of his brother Sbietta, and telling how he had sold a farm of his, for life, to an old man, who would never see the end of the year; you have a number of villains to deal with, therefore take care of yourself, and be constantly upon your guard; I say no more.

In my walks up and down the town, I met Gambatista Santini, and both he and I were invited to

supper by the priest ; it was then between five and six, and supper had been at this early hour on my account, for I had declared my intention of returning in the evening to Trespiano ; supper was therefore prepared in all haste, and Sbietta's wife was very active on the occasion, as was likewise one Cecchino Buti, a servant of theirs. As soon as the salads were dressed, and the guests began to sit down to table, the villain of a priest, made a sort of a wry face and said ; I must ask pardon of you all, but I cannot possibly have the pleasure of supping with you, for an affair of great consequence has since happened, in which my brother Sbietta is concerned ; and as he is not in the way himself, I am under a necessity of supplying his place ; we all pressed on him to stay, but not being able to prevail on him to alter his purpose, we set down to supper. As soon as we had eat the salads off certain little dishes, the boiled meat beginning to be served about, porringers were distributed to all the guests ; Santino who sat opposite to me at table, said ; they give you towels quite different from the rest ; did you ever see finer ? I told him that I never once perceived it. He then bid me call to the wife of Sbietta, who with Cecchino Buti ran up and down in a constant hurry, and desired her to sit down to table ; I used so many intreaties, that I at last prevailed on the lady to take her place : she was sorry she said, we did not like our supper, which appeared by our eating so little. After having several times praised the entertainment, assuring her that I had never tasted any thing better, or with a better appetite, I at last told her I had got enough. I could not immediately guess why the lady pressed me so earnestly to eat. When we had done supper, it was past eight o'clock, and I had a mind to re-

turn that night to Trespiano, in order to have it in my power to resume my business in the morning: so I took my leave of the rest of the guests, and having returned the lady thanks, set out upon my journey. I had scarcely travelled three miles when I felt my stomach in a combustion, and was tormented with such pangs, that I thought it an age till I arrived at my farm of Trespiano: I with great difficulty reached the place that night, and immediately went to bed. The whole night I had no rest, being taken with violent pains. No sooner was it broad day-light, but I felt myself all on fire; I had a mind to examine what the matter was, and soon concluded that I had eaten something of a poisonous nature, and began to revolve within myself, what it could possibly be: I recollected the dishes and porringers that were given me by Sbietta's wife, which appeared so different from those set before the rest of the company: I at the same time called to mind that the designing priest, Sbietta's brother, after having taken so much pains to make me welcome, did not chuse to stay to sup with us: it farther occurred to my memory, that this priest had boasted of his brother's having done a fine job, in selling a farm for life to an old man, who would never see the end of the year; for those words had been repeated to me by the worthy del Sardella: so I concluded that they had given me in a porringer of sauce, which was very high seasoned, and extremely palatable, a dose of sublimate, as sublimate produces all the symptoms with which my illness was attended. I never indeed was used to eat much sauce or savoury things with my victuals, but to be content with salt alone; I however took two spoonsful of the sauce in question, as it

was extremely relishing; and I recollected that Sbietta's wife had several times pressed me to eat of it; as likewise that they had recourse to a variety of artifices to make me take the destructive sublimate. Though I found myself thus disordered, I went to work at my great model of Neptune, but my illness in a few days so over-powered me, that I was confined to my bed. As soon as the dutchess heard that I had been taken ill, she ordered the unfortunate marble to be put into the hands of Bartholomew Ammanato, who sent me word that I might do what I pleased with my model, for he had won the marble so much contested. I did not upon hearing this, do like his master Bandinello, who was used to launch out into a superfluity of words, I contented myself with saying, that I had always guessed it would turn out so; and desired Bartholomew to exert his utmost efforts in shewing himself worthy of the favour which fortune had conferred on him. Thus I continued very ill, confined to my bed, and was attended by that skilful physician signor Francesco of Monte Varchi, and by a surgeon named Raphael de Pilli. As signor Francesco found that the poison had entirely exhausted its power of hurting, for it was unable to subdue that strength of nature which he perceived to be in my constitution, he said to me one day: Benvenuto, return thanks to God, you have got the better of your disorder; be under no apprehensions, for I am resolved to cure you, in spite of the villains who endeavoured to bereave you of life. Raphael de Pilli then cried out; this will be one of the greatest and most difficult cures that was ever heard of; do you know, Benvenuto, that you have swallowed a whole spoonful of Sublimate? At these



words signor Francesco interrupting him, said : perhaps there was some poisonous insect in it. I then told them, that I knew to a certainty what sort of poison it was, and who gave it me ; and here we were all silent. They attendēd me above six months, and it was above a year before I was able to do any business.

## CHAPTER XI.

*Cellini upon his recovery is particularly favoured and encouraged by don Francesco the duke's son—Great injustice done him by the magistrates in a law-suit between him and Sbietta—He repairs to the duke at Leghorn and lays his case before him, but meets with no redress—The quantity of poison which he had taken at Sbietta's house, instead of destroying him, cleans his body and strengthens his constitution—Farther injustice done him in his dispute with Sbietta, by the treachery of Raphael Schieggia—The duke and dutchess pays him a visit upon their return from Pisa, and he takes that opportunity to make them a present of an exquisite piece of workmanship, viz. a marble crucifix—The duke and dutchess are both reconciled to him, and promise him every sort of assistance and encouragement—Finding himself disappointed in his expectations, he is disposed to listen to a proposal made him by Catherine of Medici, queen dowager of France, to settle in that kingdom, and erect a magnificent mausoleum to her husband Henry II.—This the duke prevents by an application to the queen, who desists from her proposal in consequence—The cardinal of Medici dies, which occasions much grief at the court of Florence—Cellini in great anguish of mind sets out for Pisa.*

ABOUT this time the duke went to Sienna to make his public entry into that city, an Ammanato had repaired thither some months before, to

erect the triumphal arches : on this occasion a natural son of Ammanato's, who continued to occupy the room where we worked, removed a sort of a veil which I had thrown over my model of Neptune to keep it from being seen. I immediately went to make a complaint of this to don Francesco, the duke's son, who always appeared to be my friend : I represented to him that they had uncovered my figure which was still imperfect, but that if it had been finished, it would have given me no concern at all. To this the prince answered, shaking his head ; Benvenuto, do not give yourself any trouble about covering the figure, for they think theirs much superior to yours ; but if you require it to be kept covered, I will instantly give orders accordingly ; to these words his excellency added many more highly to my advantage in the presence of several noblemen, I then requested him to give me an opportunity of finishing it, as I proposed making a present of it as well as the little model to his excellency. He replied that with pleasure he accepted of both, and would order all the conveniencies to be given me, that I could require in my business. So I subsisted upon this little favor, which in some measure restored my health ; for so many ills and calamities had befallen me, that I began to sink under them, but upon this glimmering of princely encouragement, I began to comfort myself with some hopes of life. A year being now expired, since my purchasing the farm of Fonte, from Sbietta, and finding that, besides all the injuries he had done me, both by poison and chicane, the farm did not produce what he had promised ; as I had, besides the contract, a writing signed by Sbietta's own hand, who had entered into an engagement before witnesses to pay me the yearly pro-

duct of the farm ; I addressed myself to the magistrates of the city of Florence ; at that time signor Alfonso Quistello was living ; he was superintendent of the treasury, and sat with the other counsellors, amongst whom were Averardo Serristori, and Frederic de Ricci ; I cannot recollect the names of them all ; but amongst them there was one of the Alessandri ; let it suffice to observe that they were all persons of great distinction. When I had laid my case before those magistrates, they were unanimously of opinion, that Sbietta should refund the money he had received from me, except Frederic de Ricci, who at that time had connexions with Sbietta ; all the rest expressed their concern, that Frederic de Ricci should prevent them from deciding in my favour ; amongst others Averardo Serristori was particularly clamorous on the occasion, as was likewise one of the Alessandri. Frederic having at last so protracted the cause, that the magistrates put an end to the time of their sitting, the gentleman above-mentioned came up to me one morning in the square of the Nunziata, when the magistrates had all left the court, and said with a loud voice ; Frederic de Ricci has been too powerful for us all, so that you lost your cause in spite of us. I shall make no observation on this subject for fear of offending those at the helm of Government ; let it suffice to say that I lost my cause on account of a rich citizen, who employed the grazier from whom I had bought my farm.

The duke being at Leghorn, I waited on his excellency to solicit him to dismiss me, perceiving that I had entirely recovered my health and strength ; as I found myself quite out of employment, I was quite displeas'd with a state of indolence ; so I formed a resolution to go

directly to Leghorn, where I found the duke, and met with the most gracious reception, I made some stay in that town, and every day rode out with his excellency, so that I had a fair opportunity of saying whatever I thought proper to him; the duke used to ride several miles out of Leghorn by the sea-side, where he was building a little fortress; and that he might not be troubled with too great a number of attendants, he chose to have me with him as a companion. One day finding myself caressed by his excellency in a particular manner, I formed a resolution to turn the conversation to Sbietta, that is, Pier Maria of Anterigoli, and thus expressed myself: my lord, I must lay before your excellency a most extraordinary case, by hearing of which you will know the cause that prevented me from finishing the earthen Neptune, on which I was employed in my work-house; you are to understand that I purchased a farm of Sbietta for life; let it here suffice, to inform the reader that I gave the duke a circumstantial account of the whole affair, never in the least deviating from the truth, or dashing it with the smallest mixture of falshood. When I came to the affair of the poison, I said, that if ever my services had been acceptable to his excellency, he should instead of punishing Sbietta, and those who had administered the poison, confer some reward on them; for they had not given me a sufficient dose to kill me, but just enough to purge off a dangerous viscosity which I had in my stomach and intestines; and it operated in such a manner, that whereas in my former state of health I might have lived three or four years, this extraordinary sort of physic had produced such an effect, that I reckoned upon having gained a new lease of twenty years; in short, I found myself better than ever, and re-



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his brother ; so that the contract was drawn up for the term of five years. As it is my intention to enter upon another subject, and to have done with this mystery of iniquity, I shall only take notice of what passed during fifteen years after making out the lease. The two villains, instead of keeping any of the promises they had made me, were for returning me my farm, and did not chuse to keep the lease of it any longer. I complained very much of this usage, and they had recourse to such chicanery, with regard to the contract, that I had no resource against their indirect proceedings. When I perceived this, I told them, that the duke and the prince his son, would not suffer them to do such flagrant injustice to a citizen of Florence. This menace so terrified them, that they again sent me the same Raphael Scheggia, who made up matters between us at first, to declare that they were not willing to pay me sixty gold crowns they had done for some years past : I made answer, that I would take nothing less. Raphael came to me, and said, My friend Benvenuto, you know very well, that I am in your interest ; they have all referred the affair to me ; thereupon he shewed me a writing, with their names signed to it. I, who was not aware that Raphael was their near relation, thought myself in very good hands ; so I left the management of the affair entirely to him. This dirty rascal came to me one evening, within half an hour of night-fall, in the month of August, and made use of many arguments and persuasions to prevail on me to sign the contract whilst I was alone, because he knew that if he deferred it till the morning, the trick would be discovered. So the contract was signed, by which he engaged to pay me regularly sixty-five crowns a year in two payments, during the course of my natural life ; and though I made a great stir about the affair

and would by no means submit to such terms, he shewed me the writing with my name to it, which made all that saw it declare me to be in the wrong: the fellow at the same time affirmed, that what he had done had been for my good, and that he was entirely in my interest: so, as neither the notary nor any body else knew of his being related to my adversaries, I was condemned by the general voice: I therefore gave up the contest in time, and shall endeavour to do the best I can for the future. I likewise committed another capital error in the month of December in the following year, 1566. I purchased half the farm of Poggio of them, that is, of Sbietta and the rest, for two hundred crowns; this farm borders upon my other of Fonte; and I let it to them for three years. Herein I thought I acted wisely. I should become too prolix, were I to give a full account of all the ill usage I received from those people; I therefore leave the whole affair to the Almighty, who has always espoused my cause against those who have injured me.

Having completely finished my marble crucifix, I thought that if I raised it a few cubits above the ground, it would appear to much greater advantage, than if it were placed immediately upon it; so I began to shew it to whoever had a mind to see such an exhibition. The duke and dutchess being informed of this, one day, upon their return from Pisa, came unexpectedly with a grand retinue to my work-shop, in order to see this image of Christ upon the cross; it pleased them so highly, that their excellencies, as well as all the nobility and gentry present, bestowed the highest encomiums on me. When I found that it gave them such satisfaction, by their extolling it to the skies, I with pleasure made them a present of it, thinking none

more worthy of that fine piece of work than their excellencies ; I only requested, that before they departed, they would vouchsafe to enter my humble habitation. At these words they rose, with great complaisance, and leaving the shop, entered my house, where they perceived my little model of Neptune, and the fountain, which the dutchess had never seen before. So greatly was her excellency affected with the sight, that she burst into a loud exclamation of surprize, and addressing herself to the duke, said, I vow, my lord, I could never have formed a conception of any thing so beautiful. The duke answered her more than once, Did not I tell you it would prove so? Thus they talked a long time in praise of my abilities, and seemed, as it were, to ask pardon for their past treatment of me. The duke told me, That it was his pleasure I should make choice of a piece of marble myself, and begin immediately to work upon it. To these kind words I made answer, That if he gave me the means, I should, for his sake, cheerfully engage in so arduous an undertaking. The duke replied, Benvenuto, you shall have all the helps you require, and I likewise shall give you some of my own contriving, which will be far more effectual than the others ; having expressed himself in these obliging terms, he withdrew, together with the dutchess, and left me highly pleased. Several weeks, however, passed without my being taken any further notice of, insomuch that, seeing no orders given for furnishing me with what I wanted, I began to be half distracted and in despair.

At this very juncture the queen dowager of France dispatched Signor Baccio del Bene to our duke, to solicit the loan of a sum of money ; the duke, in the kindest manner, granted her request,



at least so it was generally reported. As Signor Baccio del Bene and I were intimate friends, we were very glad to see each other; and he gave me an account of all the favours conferred on him by his excellency: upon this occasion he asked me what works I had in hand; I mentioned to him the affair of Neptune and the fountain. He then told me, that the queen had a strong desire to finish the sepulchral monument of her husband king Henry, and that Daniel of Volterra had undertaken to make a great horse of bronze for that purpose; but he was too far advanced in years, and the monument required a variety of ornaments; so that if I chose to return to France, and again take possession of my castle, I should be abundantly supplied with whatever I wanted, in case I was willing to serve her majesty. I desired Baccio to apply to the duke, telling him, that if his excellency consented, I would return to France with pleasure. Baccio then told me in high glee, that we should set out for France together, looking upon the affair as concluded. The day following he happened to have an interview with the duke, when he took occasion to speak of me, and told his excellency, that if it was agreeable to him, the queen his mistress would take me into her service. The duke made answer, Benvenuto is a man of great genius, as every body knows; but now he chuses to work no longer. Thus the conversation was changed to other topics.

The next day I repaired to Baccio, who repeated to me all that had passed between him and the duke. Upon which I began to be quite out of patience: if, said I, when his excellency did not employ me, I of myself executed one of the most difficult pieces of work that ever was seen, which cost

me upwards of two hundred crowns ; what would have been the result, in case his excellency had set me to work ? I must say he does me wrong ; he has hurt me greatly. The gentleman repeated this answer of mine to the duke, who declared that he had been jesting, and what he meant was, to keep me in his own service ; this provoked me greatly, and I had several times a great mind to decamp. The queen of France did not care to propose the thing any more to the duke, for fear of offending him ; so that I was obliged to stay much against my will. About this time the duke went a journey with his whole court and his sons, excepting only the prince, who was then in Spain : they travelled along the sea-coast of Sienna, and in that manner arrived at Pisa. The unwholesome sea-air affected the cardinal before any of the rest, so that he was attacked by a malignant fever, which in a few days put an end to his life. He was one of the duke's chief supports, being a person of great abilities ; and of consequence his loss was severely felt. I let several days pass, till I thought the grief of the court was in some measure subsided, and then I repaired to Pisa.

HERE ENDS BENVENUTO CELLINI'S MANUSCRIPT.

## APPENDIX.

IN a manuscript belonging to the heirs of Benvenuto Cellini, which, with many other books written in his own hand, as well as his professions and effects, was long after inherited by the company of S. Martoni of Buonumini, we meet with what follows:

Benvenuto, the son of John Andrew Cellini, sculptor and citizen of Florence, makes his will in the year 1569, on the eighteenth of December: he desires to be buried in the church of the Nunziata, in the tomb which he proposes to erect for himself; and in case it should not be finished at the time of his death, he desires to be entered in the burying-place of the company of painters, in the cloisters of the said church. He acknowledges the portion of Madonna Piera, his lawful wife, whose family-name is omitted. Reparata, Magdalen, and Andrew Simon, were the lawful issue of him and the said Piera. He appoints his said son his heir, to whom he substitutes Signor Libroodoro, the son of Annibal de Libroodoro, doctor of the laws and advocate, his nephew, (according to the common copy of the will) who resided at Rome. He left guardian of his said children, the magistrate of wards, requesting him to constitute as administrators of his succession, Signor Piero della Stufa, a canon

of Florence, the said Signor Librogoro, and Andrew the son of Lorenzo Benvieni.

On the twelfth of January, in the year of our Lord 1570, he made a codicil, confirming his will, &c. and adding to the number of the above administrators, Domenico di Niccolo, the son of Christofano Mannozi, citizen of Florence.

On the third of February, in the year of our Lord 1670, he made a second codicil, by which he bequeathed all his statues, finished or unfinished, to prince Francis of Medici.

On the sixth of February, in the year of our Lord 1570, he made a third codicil, whereby he provided for his daughters. All these were drawn up by John, the son of Matthew, of Falgano, notary and citizen of Florence.

On the thirteenth of February, in the year of our lord 1570, we meet with an account of the death of Benvenuto, which happened that very day.

In the register of the purveyors to the academy of drawing, marked with the letter E, at the papers 31, from the year 1563 to 1571, we meet with the following record :

I record it, that on the present eighteenth of February, was buried Signor Benvenuto Cellini, the sculptor ; and he was buried by his own direction in our chapter of the Nunziata, with a grand funeral pomp, at which were present our whole academy, together with the company of sculptors : when we repaired to his house, and were seated in proper order, after all the monks had passed by, the bier was lifted up by four of the academicians, and carried, with the usual attendance, to the Nunziata ; the ceremonies of the church being there performed over it, it was taken by the same acade-

micians, and conveyed to the chapter; the ceremonies of divine worship being again repeated, a monk, who had been charged the evening before, to compose the funeral sermon of Signor Benvenuto, in praise both of his life and works, and his excellent moral qualities, mounted the pulpit, and preached a funeral sermon, which was highly approved of by the whole academy, and by the people, who struggled to get into the chapter, as well to see the body of Benvenuto, as to hear the commendation of his good qualities. The whole ceremony was performed with a great number of wax-lights, both in the church and the chapter thereunto belonging.



SOME ACCOUNT  
OF  
**BENVENUTO CELLINI,**  
THE CELEBRATED  
SCULPTOR AND ACADEMICIAN,

FROM VASARI'S LIVES OF PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS, VOL. II. p. 283.

BENVENUTO CELLINI, citizen of Florence, at present a sculptor, in his youth cultivated the goldsmith's business, and had no equal in that branch for many years, nor in making fine figures of alto and basso relieve, and every other work belonging to that ingenious art. He set jewels and adorned them with admirable collets, and diminutive figures, so exquisitely formed, and some of them so odd and whimsical, that nothing finer or more beautiful can be conceived. The medals which he in his youth made of gold and silver, were wrought with the utmost diligence and accuracy, and cannot be sufficiently praised. At Rome he made for pope Clement VII. a button to be worn upon his pontifical habit, fixing a diamond to it with the most exquisite art, around which were certain figures of children, represented on plates of gold, and a figure of God the Farther admirably engraved; besides being paid for his labour, he was by the

pope invested with the office of mace-bearer. Being afterwards employed by the same pontiff, to make a chalice of gold, the cup of which was to be carved with figures, representing the theological virtues, he brought that work to a conclusion, with admirable ingenuity. There was no man in that age, amongst the numbers who tried their hands at such work, more successful in making the medals of that pope than Cellini, as is well known to those who have seen such pieces, and keep them in their possession. Hence he was employed to make the stamps for the Roman Mint, and there were never seen finer coins than those that were struck in Rome, at that period. After the death of pope Clement, Benvenuto returned to Florence, where he likewise made stamps with the head of duke Alexander for the Mint of Florence, so wonderfully beautiful, that some of them are preserved to this day, as ancient medals, and with good reason, for he in them surpassed himself, Benvenuto having at last attached himself to sculpture and casting statues, made in France many works of bronze, silver and gold, whilst he was employed at the court of king Francis. He afterwards came back to his native country, and entered into the service of duke Cosmo, by whom he was at first employed as a goldsmith, and afterwards in certain pieces of sculpture; he executed in metal the statue of Perseus, who cut off Medusa's head, which stands in the piazza, hard by the gate of the ducal palace, upon a basis of marble with some fine bronze figures, about a cubit and two feet one-third high; this work was brought to perfection with the greatest art and diligence imaginable, and set up in an honourable place in the piazza, upon a par with the Judith of that renowned sculptor Donatò.

It was indeed, astonishing that Benvenuto having been accustomed to make little figures for so many years, should succeed so happily in bringing so large a statue to perfection.

The same artist likewise made a Christ upon the cross, as big as the life, a most exquisite and extraordinary performance; the duke keeps it as a piece which he sets a very great value upon, in the palace of Pitti, in order to place it in the little chapel, which he is erecting there, and which could contain nothing more grand, nor more worthy of so illustrious a prince. In a word this work cannot be sufficiently commended.

Though I might here enlarge on the productions of Benvenuto, who has always shewed himself a man of great spirit and vivacity, bold, active, enterprising and formidable to his enemies; a man in short who knew as well how to speak to princes, as to exert himself in his art; I shall add nothing farther, since he has written an account of his life and works, and a treatise on goldsmiths work, as well as on casting statues and many other subjects, with more art and eloquence than it is possible for me to immitate. I shall therefore content myself with giving this succinct account of his chief performances.

THE END.

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